

BENTSEN TO BE DUKAKIS RUNNING MATE; IS VIEWED AS A SUPPORTER OF ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 12 (JTA) -- Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-Texas), whom Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis named Tuesday as his vice presidential running mate, is considered to have been largely sympathetic to the concerns of the Jewish community during his 18 years in the Senate, although he has supported arms sales for Arab countries.

The announcement was made by Dukakis in Boston just six days before the Democratic National Convention is to open in Atlanta. With Bentsen and his wife, Beryl Ann, at his side, Dukakis praised the Texas senator for his "deep commitment to civil rights that goes back to the 1940s."

The selection of Bentsen ends the speculation about the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who only Monday night said he would accept the vice presidential nomination, if offered.

At a news conference in Washington on Tuesday, Jackson was non-committal, saying only that Dukakis selected Bentsen in accordance with the governor's campaign strategy, which was his right. But he refused to comment on the selection.

However, he said that "Dukakis will make a good president" and "I no doubt will support the ticket that the convention elects."

Jackson said he was not told of Bentsen's selection personally by Dukakis, but learned of it from a reporter Monday night at Washington's National Airport.

Not Expert In Foreign Affairs

The 67-year-old Bentsen is considered a supporter of the close relationship between the United States and Israel, as well as an advocate for Soviet Jewry. But he has not been in the forefront of these issues.

His leadership role in the Senate has not been in foreign affairs, but in economic matters, especially taxation. He is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

Bentsen has a mixed record on foreign aid, occasionally voting against such legislation, although his opposition is seen by sources as being more against aid in general, rather than the amount going to Israel.

He did not co-sponsor the bill in the Senate to create the U.S.-Israel free trade agreement, but voted for the bill when it was approved overwhelmingly by the Senate.

Bentsen co-sponsored the legislation to close the Palestine Liberation Organization offices, supported Senate ratification of the Genocide Convention and is a co-sponsor of the current bill, awaiting Senate action, to implement the convention by making genocide a federal crime.

In 1984, Bentsen was co-sponsor of the Senate resolution to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He also supported the bill to allow persons in the military to wear yarmulkes.

In 1985, Bentsen was one of a group of senators who unsuccessfully urged President Reagan not to visit the military cemetery in

Bitburg, West Germany, where members of the Waffen SS are among those buried.

Key Vote On Saudi Sale

Perhaps Bentsen's most controversial vote, as far as the Jewish community is concerned, came in June 1986, when he voted to uphold Reagan's veto of a joint congressional resolution rejecting a weapons sale to the Saudis.

The Senate failed to override the veto by one vote, and the sale went ahead. Bentsen was the only Democrat to switch his vote.

In 1984, he opposed the sale of Stinger missiles to Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and in 1985, he co-sponsored the resolution to deny advanced weapons to Jordan until it begins peace negotiations with Israel.

But in 1987, he was not one of the 68 senators who signed a letter opposing the sale of 1,600 Maverick missiles to the Saudis, which eventually caused Reagan to remove the missile from the arms package.

Most recently, he was not among the 21 senators who signed a letter, initiated this month by Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.), urging the administration not to submit a proposed \$1.9 billion arms sale to Kuwait.

On domestic issues, Bentsen voted for a constitutional amendment that would have permitted prayer in the public schools. He has supported women's right to choose to have abortions, voting against an amendment that would have forbidden the District of Columbia to use district or federal funds to pay for abortions.

"Lloyd Bentsen's long congressional career indicates considerable understanding and sympathy for many issues of particular interest to the Jewish community -- the U.S.-Israel relationship, Soviet Jewry, the genocide treaty," said David Harris, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee.

'Close Working Relationship'

"While there may be some concern about some of Sen. Bentsen's votes with respect to arms sales to Arab countries that remain technically at war with Israel, overall we view him as a friend with whom we have enjoyed a close working relationship."

David Brody, Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, observed that Bentsen has been a strong supporter of Israel and has had good relations with the Jewish community in Texas.

He said the senator stressed in a recent letter to constituents that by supporting Israel, the United States "advances the cause of peace in the Middle East."

Brody said Bentsen also has emphasized the need to take strong measures against terrorism. And the senator has pushed for an energy policy to lessen dependence on Middle East oil.

In presenting Bentsen, Dukakis noted the parallel to 1960, when the Democratic ticket also contained a presidential candidate from Massachusetts, John Kennedy, and a vice presidential candidate from Texas, Lyndon Johnson.

Not mentioned was another parallel to that election. Bentsen benefits from a Texas law passed that year for Johnson, which will allow

him to run for re-election for his Senate seat, as Johnson did in 1960, while running for the vice presidency.

Bentsen was first elected to the Senate in 1970, when he defeated his Republican opponent, George Bush, who will be the GOP presidential candidate this year. Bush has not yet named a running mate.

A native of Texas, Bentsen enlisted in the army as a private during World War II and rose to the rank of major. He graduated from the University of Texas with a law degree.

He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1948 and served there until 1954, when he went into business in Houston.

(JTA Washington correspondent Howard Rosenberg contributed to this report.)

KNESSET VOTES TO SUSPEND KAHANE FOR REMARK AGAINST ARAB MEMBER By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- The Knesset voted unanimously Tuesday to suspend Rabbi Meir Kahane for threatening an Arab Knesset member at a session several months ago.

Kahane, leader of the extremist Kach party, will be barred from attending five consecutive plenary sessions. He also was reprimanded for using offensive language.

Kahane, Kach's only Knesset member, swore at Mohammed Miari of the Progressive List for Peace and waved a hangman's noose at him in the Knesset chamber.

The Knesset House Committee recommended Kahane's suspension. Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel said he would ask Attorney General Yosef Harish to consider whether the remarks attributed to Kahane could be construed as a death threat.

Kahane said he did not threaten Miari, but merely "promised" that when he becomes prime minister, he would do away with him.

The Progressive List is a left-wing party whose membership includes Jews and Arabs. Kahane does not believe Arabs should serve in the Knesset and has publicly advocated expelling Arabs from Israel and the administered territories.

Kahane was suspended once before for several sessions, after he refused, on demand, to take the pledge of allegiance to the State of Israel, required of all members. Doing so would have jeopardized his American citizenship, which he still retains.

LIKUD PULLS PARLIAMENTARY MOVE TO DELAY VOTE ON ELECTION BILL By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- Laborites complained of "a dirty trick." But Likud claimed it followed the rules Tuesday when it called a sudden vote in the Knesset's House Committee on a controversial election bill.

The measure would hold general elections and municipal elections on separate dates. It is supported by the Labor Party and the various religious factions, but strongly opposed by Likud.

The bill passed its first reading last month and has been stuck since then in the House Committee, which is chaired by Micha Reiser of Likud. Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel, a Laborite, ordered Monday that the committee vote without delay to bring it to the plenum.

Hillel was reviled from the Likud benches. Reiser acted. As the committee's Labor members

left, believing the session was about to end, he held a quick vote. The result was to shift the bill to the Law and Justice Committee, which also has a Likud chairman, Eliczer Kulas.

This allows further foot-dragging, which could keep the measure off the floor until the Knesset adjourns for summer recess.

Reiser said he "acted within the rules," noting his promise Monday to "bring the issue to a vote before next week."

To which Labor Knesset member Shevah Weiss remarked, "Maybe it was within the rules, but it was morally reprehensible."

Laborite and religious party members want to separate the municipal elections from the Knesset elections to avoid local mayoral and town council candidates from getting elected on Likud's coat-tails.

As matters now stand, Labor and the religious parties control more municipalities than is reflected by their strength in the Knesset. They believe they can keep and enlarge their advantage if the voters do not have to cast local ballots at the same time they are choosing Knesset candidates.

HERUT AND LIBERAL PARTY SQUABBLE OVER COMPOSITION OF LIKUD SLATE By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- The Herut election slate that the party's Central Committee produced last week may be altered substantially in the process of becoming the Likud ballot that Israeli voters will see on Election Day, Nov. 1.

Concern was expressed that the 35 Knesset candidates selected by Herut include not one woman, and there is no Arab or Druse in a safe slot, meaning one likely to be elected.

Herut is the largest component of the Likud bloc. The second largest is the Liberal Party.

Liberals reacted angrily Tuesday to hints from Likud campaign manager Moshe Arens, a senior Herut man, that they are over-represented on the ticket as matters now stand.

According to Arens, the "problem" is that the Likud list contains almost one Liberal for every two Herut candidates. That, in his opinion, is out of proportion to the size of the Liberal's political constituency.

Arens noted that the original Herut-Liberal agreement to form the Likud bloc 20 years ago is out of date and should be replaced by the merger agreement concluded between the two parties, but not yet implemented.

Herut also seems to regret the two safe seats it pledged to Yigal Hurvitz's Ometz faction on the Likud list and the one promised the lone Tami Knesset member, Aharon Abuhatzzeira.

If they were made available, the gender and ethnic imbalance could be rectified.

Some Herut activists are suggesting that Ometz's No. 2 man, Zalman Shoval, forfeit his promised safe spot in favor of a woman candidate.

KOLLEK TO PROTEST BASTILLE DAY PARTY

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem and senior Israeli officials are planning to boycott the Bastille Day reception to be held at the French Consulate here Thursday.

They are protesting the French practice of holding separate receptions for Jewish and Arab dignitaries on their national holiday, which a spokesman called "an apartheid policy by France."

SIX POLICE OFFICERS INJURED IN RAID ON JERUSALEM COURTHOUSE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- Six police officers were injured Tuesday morning battling Arabs inside the Jerusalem district courthouse on Saladin Street. All required hospital treatment.

They were attacked while escorting a handcuffed Arab whose detention period had just been extended. An Arab mob estimated to number between 30 and 40 burst into a corridor wielding what were described as "sharp objects."

The attackers, believed to be relatives of the prisoner, were apparently trying to free him.

Although they outnumbered the police, the attempt failed. But not before one officer suffered a broken arm and another was rendered unconscious by a tear gas grenade that was snatched from his pocket and detonated by one of the Arabs.

Most of the attackers escaped. Only four suspects were detained.

Nearby, two passengers were slightly injured Tuesday when an Egged bus was stoned on Saladin Street, East Jerusalem's main thoroughfare.

A gasoline bomb was thrown at another Egged bus near the Atarot airport in Jerusalem. Another was hurled at a shop in Isawiya village, near Mount Scopus. There were no injuries.

There was scattered violence Tuesday in the West Bank, mainly in the Nablus area, much of which was put under curfew.

Two Palestinian youths were injured during a clash with Israel Defense Force soldiers in Nablus. Two soldiers were slightly injured in disturbances at the Askar refugee camp, near Nablus.

A Change Of Tactics

Curfews remained in force at the Jalazoun refugee camp, near Ramallah; the Aida camp, near Bethlehem; and the town of Beit Sahur, which adjoins Bethlehem.

The Palestinian uprising is now in its eighth month and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin admitted Tuesday that the security forces have not been able to end the violence, though they have made road travel safer in the administered territories, he said.

Rabin spoke to reporters during a tour of military posts in the Hebron and Bethlehem districts. He also addressed soldiers and spoke to some Arab residents.

He said the tactics of the Arab uprising have changed. The organizers still attempt to whip up massive rioting in refugee camps and towns.

But more and more Palestinian activists are triggering clashes with soldiers in lightly populated areas, Rabin said.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL THANKS SHAMIR

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno of Japan has written to Premier Yitzhak Shamir, thanking him for "the warmest hospitality extended to me and my delegation during our recent visit to your country."

Uno, the first Japanese Cabinet minister to visit Israel, was here June 26 on a one-day visit. His letter, received at the beginning of July, was made public Tuesday.

Uno, who visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, wrote that he had been moved "to face

the past tragedy of the Jewish people and felt the importance of its meaning to mankind."

He was also "deeply impressed by the development achieved in your country since its independence 40 years ago."

Uno said he considered the talks he had in Jerusalem "most beneficial for further political dialogues between our two countries." He ended his letter with wishes for peace in the region.

DOCTORS VOW TO CONTINUE STRIKE; HUNGER STRIKERS HOSPITALIZED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 12 (JTA) -- Striking doctors derided reports Tuesday of "some progress" by Cabinet ministers toward resolving the health care crisis.

They called them "propaganda window-dressing" and continued to apply work sanctions against government and Histadrut hospitals selectively on a rotating basis.

The doctors were skeptical over word that Finance Minister Moshe Nissim and Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino had moved closer to agreement Monday night on second-shift use of operating theaters at the public hospitals.

The intention is to reduce the waiting list for elective surgery, variously estimated at from 15,000 to 50,000 patients who have been waiting as long as two years for non-emergency operations.

The doctors say the ministers still have not addressed the central issue of compensation to them and other medical and non-medical hospital personnel for the extra hours on duty. Nissim adamantly refuses a salary increase for publicly employed physicians.

Meanwhile, the hunger strike begun Sunday by 10 Knesset members to protest the government's failure to resolve the hospital crisis has begun to take its toll.

Chaike Grossman, a veteran of the Mapam party, and Mordechai Virshubski of the Citizens Rights Movement were hospitalized late Monday. And Gula Cohen of the Tehiya party was taken to the hospital Tuesday suffering from general weakness and low blood pressure.

They and their colleagues, representing both left and right-wing opposition parties, said they would subsist on fruit juices and water for a week. They have been camping outside the Cabinet room since Sunday and sleeping on mattresses in the Knesset corridors.

In place of those hospitalized, two officials of the National Religious Party, which is part of the government coalition, joined the hunger strike.

They are the NRP's secretary general, Rabbi Yitzhak Levy, and Eliczer Avtabi, chairman of its Hapoel Hamizrachi wing.

500 RABBIS CONVENE IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, July 12 (JTA) -- About 500 rabbis and Jewish community leaders from 30 countries are gathered here for a conference that opened Tuesday in celebration of Israel's 40th anniversary.

The conference marks the first official visits to Israel by the chief rabbis of two Communist countries, Hungary and Yugoslavia, as well as rabbis from Austria, Greece and Argentina.

Jewish communities in Japan, India and other parts of the world are also represented.

HAMMER SIGNS \$25 MILLION DEAL TO DRILL FOR OFFSHORE OIL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 12 (JTA) -- The long search for oil in Israel will continue, and for the first time, it will involve offshore drilling as well.

Oil magnate Armand Hammer announced at a news conference that he had signed a \$25 million deal with Israel's Energy Ministry and would begin building Israel's first offshore drilling rig on a platform some 10 miles off the Tel Aviv coastline.

The platform, to be operated by Hammer's Occidental Petroleum Co., is expected to begin operation by the end of the year.

Hammer also visited for a half-hour with ex-Prime Minister Menachem Begin at his Jerusalem home. Hammer is one of the few outsiders whom Begin entertains at his apartment, which has become his veritable hermitage since he quit office in 1983.

Hammer told reporters that he urged the former premier to begin writing his memoirs soon, and that he had found Begin in good health.

At an earlier news conference Monday, Hammer said Occidental's oil geologists indicate there could be a billion barrels of oil under the sea floor in Israeli waters at a depth of about 17,000 feet.

The offshore well he proposes to dig will be the deepest ever in Israel's long and mostly fruitless search for oil.

Hammer signed a three-year contract with the government giving Occidental exploration rights on 1,850 square miles undersea and 4,350 square miles in the Negev.

It will cost \$25 million of which the Israel government will pay 34 percent, according to Energy Minister Moshe Shahal.

Hammer, a Russian-born American Jew, is a frequent visitor to Israel. He is here now to celebrate his 90th birthday and to dedicate projects funded through his philanthropy.

Hammer, who says he feels more like 40 than 90, was to attend a \$10,000 birthday party here Tuesday night sponsored by the Tel Aviv Foundation for Arts and Culture.

On Wednesday, he will lay the cornerstone of a \$2 million Jewish-Arab community center in the run-down Ajami quarter of Jaffa. Hammer raised more than \$1.5 million for the project, which was initiated by the foundation.

The oil magnate will also dedicate a new wing of the Assaf Harofe Hospital near Saraf in southern Israel.

Hammer, who was trained as a medical doctor, built his fortune on the basis of art treasures he was allowed by Lenin to take out of the Soviet Union immediately after the Bolshevik revolution in 1917. Lenin's gesture was in appreciation for medical treatment Hammer provided the revolutionaries.

Since then, he has been on friendly terms with every Soviet leader and has played a major role in many behind-the-scenes arrangements on behalf of Soviet Jews.

Hammer visits Moscow regularly. Referring to his recent meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Hammer said, "It won't be long before (Premier Yitzhak) Shamir or (Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres is received in Moscow. I am working toward that end."

But he indicated this would not happen until after Israel's elections in November.

EAST GERMAN COURT SENTENCES EX-NAZI TO LIFE IN PRISON

By David Kantor

BONN, July 12 (JTA) -- Manfred Pochlich of Halle in East Germany was sentenced to life imprisonment Monday, for complicity in the murder of thousands of Jews while serving in the Nazi SS, the official East German news agency ADN reported.

Pochlich was found guilty by an East German court of having participated in the mass shootings of Jews in the Ukraine in 1941.

The sentence and its announcement in the official media was seen in Western circles as another move by the East German Communist regime to win Jewish good will as a means of gaining favor in the United States.

East Germany desperately wants to improve trade relations with the United States. Communist Party boss Erich Honecker hopes to win most-favored-nation status and, in exchange, has indicated a willingness to pay reparations to Jews for their losses during the Nazi era.

The East Germans have not named a sum, but estimates range from \$100 million to \$175 million.

Honecker is expected to meet with World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman later this month to discuss the issue.

TORONTO PRESS COUNCIL UPHOLDS COMPLAINT AGAINST EDITORIAL

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, July 12 (JTA) -- A complaint against an editorial in the Toronto Star that questioned the loyalty of Canadian Jews who support Israel has been upheld by the Ontario Press Council.

The council is a voluntary organization of newspaper editors in the province, which monitors the press for unfair or biased reporting and commentary.

It acted on a complaint by Neil Applebaum of London, Ontario, who objected to a March 12 editorial in the Star that commented on Jewish reaction to a speech given by External Affairs Minister Joe Clark.

Clark, addressing the annual conference of the Canada-Israel Committee in Ottawa in March, criticized Israeli behavior toward Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Some of his audience walked out.

Applebaum's objection centered on a sentence in the Star editorial, which said Clark's speech "was a necessary reminder to members of the Jewish community of Canada that they are citizens of Canada, not Israel."

The Star, responding to inquiries by the press council, said the reminder was intended only for those Jews who walked out on Clark during his speech, challenging the right to criticize Israel.

In upholding the complaint, the press council said "the Star should have clearly stated that its original editorial of March 12 was not aimed at all Canadian Jews."

However, the council commended the Star for publishing a follow-up editorial a few days later.

"It is not disloyalty to Canada for any citizens of any race or religious persuasion to disagree with a policy of the Canadian government," the editorial said.