

DUKAKIS AND JACKSON MAKE UP, BUT PLATFORM FIGHT EXPECTED

By David Friedman

ATLANTA, July 18 (JTA) -- Only hours before the Democratic National Convention opened here Monday night, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and the Rev. Jesse Jackson had their long-awaited private meeting and apparently ironed out their major differences.

Jackson said, however, that he still plans to press some of his proposed changes in the party platform on the convention floor, although he did not specifically mention the Middle East when asked which of the issues were important to him.

The meeting Monday allowed the Dukakis and Jackson representatives to resume negotiations on the platform planks that were broken off last Tuesday, after Dukakis had announced that he had selected Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas to be his vice presidential running mate.

Bentsen participated in Monday's meeting at Dukakis' hotel.

Unconfirmed reports were circulating here Monday that an agreement was in the works to include support for the "legitimate rights of the Palestinians" in the platform.

The 3,500-word platform, approved by the platform committee in Denver June 26, does not mention the Palestinians.

Instead, it reaffirms the "special relationship with Israel" and pledges to "provide new leadership to deliver the promise of peace and security through negotiations that has been held out to Israel and its neighbors by the Camp David accords."

In Denver, the Dukakis forces easily defeated a substitute plank by Jackson representatives, that also called for Palestinian "self-determination," which in Middle East parlance has come to mean a code word for a Palestinian state.

Against Change On Middle East

Rep. William Gray (D-Pa.), who is chairman of the platform-drafting committee, said Monday he was against any change in the Middle East plank because the platform was written in concise, carefully worded language.

"If you alter that language, even slightly, it can change rather drastically the meaning because of the brevity of the statement," Gray said at a meeting sponsored by AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Hyman Bookbinder, who is an adviser on Jewish and Middle East affairs to the Dukakis campaign, told reporters that there will be no change "in substance" on the Middle East plank.

He added that additions to the plank that use the terms of the Camp David accords would not be such a change. Those accords used the term "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians.

One source noted that the Jewish community might consider any change in the platform wording as a weakening of the Democratic Party's position on Israel. He said it all depends on how it was perceived by Jews.

Thomas Dine, AIPAC's executive director, warned the convention delegates attending the AIPAC meeting that the Israelis are closely watching what they do at the convention. Dine

said that what "the U.S. does or does not do can be fateful for that vulnerable nation."

But Dine expressed confidence that those who want to see a lessening of support for Israel "are going to be disappointed by what happens here in Atlanta and by what happens in the general election."

He predicted that there will be no signal of lessening of support for Israel or any steps taken "that will jeopardize the security of the Jewish state." Dine added that "the Democratic Party will not turn its back on Israel or the historic Camp David accords."

While not mentioning the Palestinians, Gray stressed that "the issue will continue to come up in the future."

Not All Jews Against Plank

However, Michael Lerner, editor of the progressive Tikkun magazine, issued a statement at the convention, saying "it is a terrible disservice to the American Jewish community to portray it as opposed to the principle of Palestinian self-determination."

He said many Jews support Palestinian self-determination "as long as it is exercised in ways consistent with Israel's security."

After meeting with Jackson, Dukakis said the black candidate "will be playing a critically important role" in the campaign.

Jackson said his name will be placed in nomination for the presidency Wednesday night, and that he still hoped for a "Chicago miracle" that would give him the Democratic nomination.

Dukakis, who has more than enough delegates to ensure his nomination, said it will be an "Athenian miracle."

At the same time, Jackson indicated he will not make a separate challenge for the vice presidential nomination, nor would he seek any position in a Dukakis administration.

"I seek no job, no salary, no title," he said.

He added that he feels he would be less effective inside the government than outside.

U.S. TO RESUME ISSUING ENTRY VISAS, BUT MOST REFUGEES WILL HAVE TO PAY

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, July 18 (JTA) -- The U.S. Embassy in Moscow will resume processing visas for Jews and other refugees leaving the USSR, but is requiring most of them to obtain private funding if they wish to leave before Oct. 1.

State Department figures show that 3,400 Soviet citizens had begun applying for permission to immigrate to the United States when the embassy stopped issuing visas July 8. The private funding requirement will be waived for the 400 refugees in the most difficult circumstances.

The embassy had announced July 8 that it no longer had sufficient funds to continue the refugee program, mainly because of a surge of visa requests from Armenians.

Under a budget agreement with Congress, the State Department could not seek any new funds until Oct. 1, the start of the 1989 fiscal year.

But last week, members of Congress wrote President Reagan protesting the embassy's deci-

sion to stop issuing visas. They argued that the move "sends a terrible signal to those seeking freedom all over the world and could give the Soviets the opportunity to claim that is America, and not the Soviet Union, that is impeding emigration."

Jewish organizations have also protested the embassy's decision.

To defuse the crisis, the State Department agreed late last week to transfer \$500,000 to Moscow from its \$119.5 million worldwide refugee budget for fiscal year 1988.

Aid For 'Emergency' Situations

The embassy plans immediate processing for 400 Soviets who are in "emergency" situations: those who have received permission to leave, sold their homes and left their jobs.

The embassy said it would seek the "timely departure" of an estimated 3,000 others seeking to leave on U.S. visas, but it would not specify a timetable.

A State Department spokesperson explained that the Immigration and Naturalization Service will soon announce a system for informing private citizens and voluntary agencies about how to expedite the departures through private funding.

Ben Zion Leuchter, president of HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, said he welcomed the embassy's decision to take care of refugees in emergency situations, but he said the issuing of U.S. visas "should be restored for all."

Leuchter called the decision to seek private money a "bad precedent," saying that refugees are a "good investment" for the United States, since after three years here, their tax payments "far exceed" the amount of money expended to bring them here.

Phil Saperia, HIAS assistant executive vice president, pointed out that few Soviet Jewish emigrants rely on U.S. visas, since most leave on Israeli visas. He said that between 150 and 180 are currently seeking letters of invitation from the United States.

About 150 Jews have left the Soviet Union on U.S. visas so far this year. Last year, 84 Soviet Jews left the Soviet Union on U.S. visas, while 28 left in 1986, Saperia said. HIAS assists virtually all Soviet Jews entering this country.

DUTCH AND ISRAELIS SET UP GROUP TO DISCUSS HANDLING OF VISAS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA) -- Israel and the Netherlands will establish a joint working group to consider the route Jewish emigrants will take leaving the Soviet Union, it was announced here Monday.

The subject was discussed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Absorption Minister Yaacov Tsur with Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers and Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, who are visiting Israel this week.

Holland is directly concerned, because its embassy in Moscow issues Israeli visas to Soviet Jews who have obtained exit permits. The Netherlands has represented Israeli interests in the USSR since Moscow broke diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967.

The Israeli Cabinet decided June 19 that in the future, Jews leaving the Soviet Union on the strength of Israeli visas must pick them up at the Israel Embassy in Bucharest, Romania, from where they are to fly directly to Tel Aviv.

Unofficial reports from the meeting Monday indicated that Lubbers objected to the scheme on grounds that Soviet Jews should have freedom of choice about where to settle. The issue also has sparked controversy in the Soviet emigre community here and among Jewish leaders overseas.

The Cabinet decision would be moot without Dutch, Soviet and Romanian cooperation. Peres seemed hopeful that the proposed joint working group would produce an understanding.

Meanwhile, the six members of an Israeli consular delegation due to go to Moscow are expected to receive their entry visas momentarily. They will pick them up at The Hague enroute to the Soviet Union.

Israelis hope the delegation eventually will be allowed to issue visas, a routine consular function. The Soviets insist that is not within the purview of their visit, for the time being.

REPORT CLEARS MEESE OF WRONGDOING IN IRAQI PIPELINE DEAL WITH ISRAEL

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, July 18 (JTA) -- Independent counsel James McKay has cleared outgoing Attorney General Edwin Meese of any possible wrongdoing stemming from his association with purported plans to bribe the Israeli Labor Party not to destroy a proposed pipeline from Jordan to Iraq.

The findings were contained in a report, made public Monday, on McKay's far-reaching inquiry into Meese's activities as attorney general.

A key section of the report probes whether any of Meese's activities in connection with the proposed pipeline were "rewarded by unlawful gratuities" from E. Robert Wallach, a longtime Jewish friend from San Francisco.

McKay found that the attorney general, upon learning from Wallach about "a promised covert payment to the Israeli Labor party, took no action to terminate United States government involvement in the Aqaba pipeline project or even to notify other United States government authorities of the possible existence of an illegal scheme."

But the special prosecutor concluded that "there is no direct evidence," apart from memorandum sent by Wallach, that "a bribe was or would be offered to any official of the Israeli Labor Party."

McKay noted that a memo sent by Wallach to Meese suggested that Israel receive \$65 million to \$70 million a year for 10 years at the conclusion of the pipeline's construction to guarantee security.

McKay quoted the Wallach memo, which was labeled "personal and confidential -- for your eyes only," as saying, "What was also indicated to me, and which would be denied everywhere, is that a portion of those funds will go directly to Labor."

The pipeline scheme originated in 1983, when Bechtel Great Britain Ltd. proposed to Iraq and Jordan that a pipeline be constructed from Kirkuk, Iraq, to the Jordanian port of Aqaba.

Both welcomed the idea, although Iraq feared Israel might attack such a pipeline. Swiss-Jewish financier Bruce Rappaport later proposed to Bechtel that pipeline security could be guaranteed by his friend, Peres, who was then Israel's prime minister.

After Rappaport could not receive a financial commitment from Israel, Rappaport sought U.S. support, and Wallach was recommended to him.

LABORITE INSISTS SHAMIR MADE OFFER TO PLO; SHAMIR CALLS MINISTER A LIAR
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization apparently has succeeded in igniting another bitter feud in the Labor-Likud coalition government during the election campaign.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, reacted with fury Monday to allegations by Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, a Laborite, that he had indeed negotiated with the PLO during a visit to Romania last September.

"There is not one word of truth in the comments of that man," Shamir told reporters. "How can a person, with so much chutzpah, say things which do not have the minimal reliance on facts?" he asked.

The Labor Party minister affirmed as largely correct the claim by Bassam Abu-Sharif, one of PLO chief Yasir Arafat's closest aides, that Shamir and a high-level PLO delegation had traded offers and counteroffers for an interim settlement of the conflict in the territories.

This took place in Bucharest, with Romania officials acting as intermediaries, Abu-Sharif told the French news agency Agence France-Presse in Baghdad on Sunday.

Shamir insists that in his talks in Romania, he had made it clear there was no room whatsoever for negotiations with the PLO, "not now and not in the future."

But Abu-Sharif said Shamir offered to let the PLO take over most of the functions of the Israeli civil administration in the territories, along the lines of the Camp David autonomy scheme. Israel would retain military control, pending a negotiated settlement.

The Palestinians, he said, countered by proposing that the United Nations take over interim rule of the territories and hold a plebiscite to determine their future status.

Won't Release Minutes

Abu-Sharif challenged Shamir to deny his story and claimed he had documents to prove its authenticity.

Shahal affirmed this. He said the only way to end the dispute was for Shamir to produce for the Cabinet the minutes of his talks in Bucharest. Shamir has flatly refused.

He also declined to reveal the contents of a private message he received July 10 from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. That immediately triggered speculation that Ceausescu had conveyed an offer to negotiate from the PLO.

Shahal insisted in the press and on radio Monday that Abu-Sharif's statements in the French interview were substantially true. He said he had evidence that during Shamir's visit to Romania, the premier submitted a document to Ceausescu offering self-rule to the Palestinians in the West Bank, under PLO aegis.

According to Shahal the offer was based on the recommendations of former Likud activist Moshe Amirav, who was drummed out of the party last year when his secret contacts with Palestinians were revealed.

The object of Shamir's proposals was to avoid a settlement with Jordan, Shahal claimed. The so-called Jordanian option is the cornerstone of the Labor Party's peace policy.

Shamir called Shahal's contentions "a filthy lie" and said he was "looking into" possible disciplinary actions against the Laborite minister.

SINIORA PRESENTS U.N. OFFICIAL DEMANDS FROM LEADERS OF UPRISING
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA) -- East Jerusalem editor Hanna Siniora was reported Monday to have handed a United Nations official an eight-point Palestinian document aimed at ending the 7-month-old uprising in the administered territories.

Siniora, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic daily Al-Fajr, is a controversial figure in his own right. Respected by some Israelis as a moderate who could represent Palestinians in future negotiations, he is regarded by others as a staunch PLO supporter, if not a card-carrying member.

Siniora claimed he happened to have a copy of the document with him when he met last week in Jerusalem with Marrack Goulding, U.N. under-secretary-general for political affairs.

The document was dated July 4, 1988, and signed by "the unified leadership of the uprising in the occupied territories -- the PLO."

The document contained immediate and long-term demands, among them an "independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

The conditions for ending the uprising were tough. They include evacuation of the Israel Defense Force from Palestinian towns, villages and refugee camps. The troops would be replaced by an international peacekeeping force.

Elections for municipal and rural councils would be held under international supervision. All deportees from the territories would be allowed to return, administrative detainees would be released, and schools and universities shut down by the Israeli authorities would be reopened.

The plan also calls for application of the Fourth Geneva Convention, abolition of the emergency defense regulations invoked by Israel, as well as military regulations countervailing local laws that were in effect before Israel assumed administration of the territories.

In addition, the document demands the closing of detention centers and the treatment of Palestinian detainees as prisoners of war, entitled to fair trial and decent living conditions, in conformity with United Nations rules.

Observers here said the document closely resembles the 14-point plan Siniora and Fayed Abu-Rahme, a Gaza lawyer, presented to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz earlier this year.

PALESTINIANS LAUNCH PROTEST STRIKE
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA) -- Palestinians observed a nearly total strike Monday in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

All activities were suspended for 24 hours. Most Arab day laborers did not show up at their jobs in Israel.

The latest general strike was ordered in Communiqué No. 21 circulated in the territories by the underground leadership of the Palestinian uprising.

It was called in "solidarity with Arab detainees in the Ketziot detention camp," where hundreds under administrative arrest are believed to be incarcerated.

Several clashes were reported between Palestinian youths and Israeli security forces during the day. A young Palestinian from the Ein Beit Elma refugee camp, near Nablus, died Monday of wounds sustained in a clash with Israeli soldiers last week.

DUTCH TOUGH ON POLICY IN TERRITORIES; MEET WITH ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA) — There were cordial but vigorous exchanges of views here Monday between Israeli leaders and two visiting Dutch officials, Premier Ruud Lubbers and Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek.

Lubbers, declaring he spoke as a friend of Israel, was sharply critical of its policies in the administered territories.

Addressing a dinner in his honor at the Knesset building Sunday night, he said Israel could not expect peace and refuse to trade land for peace.

He chided Israel for letting fear of the Arab presence on its borders dominate its thinking. He advocated an international conference to resolve the Palestinian problem and said the Palestine Liberation Organization should participate.

The prime minister reportedly had hoped to deliver his speech to the Knesset, but that privilege is reserved for heads of state. Lubbers heads the Dutch government; Queen Beatrix is the titular head of state.

Lubbers and van den Broek had separate meetings Monday with Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The Israelis tried to convince the visitors that the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is not as bad as they believe it to be.

Van den Broek got a first-hand look at the Palestinian uprising Monday, when he toured the Kalandiya refugee camp, near Jerusalem.

Disturbances At Refugee Camp

A group of local youths, masked and waving Palestinian flags, was dispersed by Israeli soldiers firing rubber bullets.

Addressing camp residents briefly, the Dutch foreign minister said, "We think that Israel has a right to exist. We also feel that the Palestinians have a right to self-determination."

Rabin reportedly did most of the talking at his 55-minute meeting with the Dutch ministers at the King David Hotel. He said punitive measures such as expulsions were used very selectively and could always be appealed to the Israeli Supreme Court.

Van den Broek met with a group of 22 prominent Palestinians in East Jerusalem Monday afternoon and Lubbers met with a similar group.

The Dutch ministers were handed petitions urging Holland to establish diplomatic ties with the PLO and use its influence on Israel to change its policy in the administered territories.

A group of Peace Now activists who met with Lubbers urged the Netherlands to "use its influence with the PLO to soften its position."

The Palestinians asked the Dutch to open a consulate in East Jerusalem. There has been one in western Jerusalem for more than 60 years.

Lubbers toured East Jerusalem Monday afternoon, visiting the Jewish Quarter and the Western Wall. He told reporters his trip to Israel is important "because you have your 40th anniversary and you are going through a difficult period."

He also visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial Monday and attended a ceremony in honor of the residents of Nieuwlander, a village in Holland that sheltered Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

ISRAEL, SPAIN FAIL TO RESOLVE DISPUTE OVER TOURIST VISAS

By David Kantor

MADRID, July 18 (JTA) — Complaints that Spain is niggardly and uncooperative in issuing Israeli citizens tourist visas and other entry documents were the subject of bilateral talks here Saturday and Sunday.

But no progress was reported on the issue after two days of discussion between Yossi Beilin, political director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and his Spanish counterpart, Fernando Perpina Robert. They instructed their respective aides to continue the talks.

Perpina assured Beilin that Spanish visa regulations are not directed against Israel. He said they were part of a policy to better control the entry of visitors to the country.

Nevertheless, while Spanish nationals visiting Israel receive a stamped visa at the port of entry without paying a fee, Israelis going to Spain on business or for pleasure say they experience difficulties.

They contend that Spain limits the number of visas issued to Israelis each year and that Spanish consular employees in European cities are uncooperative and often aggressively rude when Israelis apply for the documents.

Beilin and Perpina also discussed proposed agreements on mutually recognized social security benefits and they reviewed major political issues.

Beilin discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict Saturday with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordenez.

He was scheduled to meet Sunday night with the new justice minister, Enrique Mugica Herzog, who is Jewish and is vice president of the Spanish-Israel Friendship Association.

CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT IN ISRAEL TO ORDAIN FIRST RABBIS NEXT WEEK

NEW YORK, July 18 (JTA) — The Conservative movement in Israel, known there by the Hebrew name Masorti (traditional), will ordain the first Israeli-trained rabbis to serve the Israeli Conservative community in ceremonies July 26 at the Mt. Scopus campus of Hebrew University.

A spokeswoman for the Jewish Theological Seminary, the spiritual base of the Conservative movement here, said Friday that the ordination of the first Israeli-educated Conservative rabbis is a "historic event."

Leaders of the Conservative Jewish movement in America are planning to attend the ceremonies in Jerusalem.

Ismar Schorsch, chancellor of JTS, and members of the JTS board of directors are undertaking a mission to Israel to participate in the event.

In addition, the board of the Rabbinical Assembly and the United Synagogue of America will convene at that time in Jerusalem to attend the commencement and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the State of Israel.

The more than 1,500 guests who were invited to attend the ordination will be greeted by Yitzhak Navon, Israel's minister of education and culture.

Four graduates of the Bet Midrash, the institution for Judaic studies of the Conservative movement in Jerusalem, will be ordained.

The Bet Midrash was founded in 1984. It currently has 21 full-time students.