



## FIRST ISRAELI CONSERVATIVE RABBIS ORDAINED IN MT. SCOPUS CEREMONY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- The first four Israelis to become Conservative rabbis were ordained Tuesday at ceremonies on Mount Scopus.

The occasion was the highlight of a week of solemnities and festivities surrounding the meetings here of the principal institutions of the worldwide Conservative movement.

More than 1,000 people, Israelis and guests from overseas, packed the Mount Scopus amphitheater to hear Chancellor Ismar Schorsch of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York pronounce the young Israeli rabbis.

Ehud Bandel, Shlomo Fox, David Levine and Shmuel Shaish comprise the first graduating class of the Seminary of Judaic Studies at Neve Schechter here.

Neve Schechter is an independent institution of higher learning affiliated with the Masorti movement for Conservative Judaism in Israel and linked to JTS in New York. It offers a four-year course leading to ordination.

Levine is the son of Lee Levine, dean and director of the seminary and a professor of archaeology at the Hebrew University.

The Israeli government was represented at the ordination by Education Minister Yitzhak Navon, a former president of Israel.

Conservative Judaism is determined to establish itself in Israel and to win the same rights enjoyed by the Orthodox religious establishment.

## Abolition Of Chief Rabbinate Urged

Concurrent with the Masorti movement meeting, the Rabbinical Assembly, the rabbinical branch of Conservative Judaism in the United States, is holding its 88th annual conference in Jerusalem.

It overwhelmingly adopted a resolution Tuesday calling on the Knesset to abolish the office of chief rabbi. Doing so would eliminate exclusive Orthodox control over the religious courts, religious councils, educational programs and almost every aspect of family life in Israel.

The resolution, drafted by representatives of the 130 Conservative rabbis practicing in Israel, noted that "the Chief Rabbinate is not based on Jewish tradition."

It charged the office with monopolizing religious life in the country, leading to injustices. "We call on the Knesset to dismantle" it at "the earliest possible moment," the resolution said.

Members of the assembly said they would launch an intensive educational and public relations campaign in Israel to persuade the Knesset to adopt such legislation.

The delegates heard Foreign Minister Shimon Peres pledge here Monday night that the Labor Party will not support attempts to rewrite the Law of Return to relegate non-Orthodox rabbis to second class status.

"Our party is not an organization of halacha," Peres declared. "There is no Jew who can exclude another Jew from Jewish life." He added, "Each of us has the right to pray directly to the Lord."

The United Synagogue of America, the lay

branch of Conservative Judaism, is also meeting in Jerusalem this week.

Its 60 delegates endorsed a petition to the Supreme Court by its Israeli branch to force the Jerusalem Religious Council to restore the kashrut certificate arbitrarily revoked from a youth hostel in Jerusalem.

The synagogue movement maintains the certificate was revoked only because the hostel is affiliated with the Conservative branch.

## LABOR AND LIKUD FEUD IN KNESSET OVER ELECTORAL AND OTHER ISSUES

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- The unity coalition formed four years ago by the Labor Party and Likud out of political convenience, rather than conviction, seems to be unraveling, little more than three months before Election Day.

Relations between the ideological and political foes reached an all-time low in the Knesset and several of its committees Tuesday, a day before the Israeli parliament adjourns for summer recess.

The most savage confrontation occurred in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, where Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party, and Eliahu Ben-Elissar, the ranking Likud committee member, exchanged unprintable epithets that caused some hardened journalists to blush.

The most immediate and most divisive issue, however, is a bill providing that municipal elections and Knesset elections be held on separate days.

Labor supports the bill and has found temporary allies among the smaller parties, including the religious bloc. They believe their mayoral and town council candidates would fare better at the polls if the voters did not have to select them at the same time they vote for the new Knesset.

Likud apparently thinks they have a point and fiercely opposed the measure, in order to protect its substantial grip on local offices.

When the separate elections bill passed its first reading at a stormy session of the Knesset plenum Tuesday evening, Likud cried foul and filed a protest with the Supreme Court.

## Swift Ruling From High Court

It objected to what it said was the arbitrary replacement of its man, Micha Reisner, as chair of the House Committee with Laborite Rafi Edri.

Reisner had managed to keep the bill bottled up in committee. Edri sent it to the floor for action.

A three-justice panel of the high court, in a swiftly rendered decision, agreed with Likud that the maneuver was highly irregular. But it refrained from intervening in the activities of the legislature.

Likud's moral victory did not deter Labor from putting the final touches to the bill and pressing for its passage before adjournment Wednesday.

In the Knesset Law Committee, a promising move toward electoral reform, supported by both Labor and Likud, came unstuck Tuesday, when the

two parties disagreed over details.

Under the proposed measure, half of the 120 member Knesset would continue to be elected under Israel's system of proportional representation, in which the voters choose party lists, not individual candidates.

The other half would be chosen directly by geographic constituencies. The two parties have clashed over the number and size of those constituencies, and it appears now that reform is a dead issue until the next Knesset, which will be chosen on Nov. 1.

On Monday, the Knesset majority voted for a controversial bill forbidding Knesset members from engaging in outside work, whether business, professional or as local elected officials.

Labor solidly supported the legislation. It was fought by Finance Minister Moshe Nissim of Likud's Liberal wing and Knesset member Ehud Olmert of Likud's Herut wing.

#### Fireworks Over Foreign Policy

The fireworks in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was touched off by recriminations over recent foreign policy developments.

Peres charged that Likud deliberately sabotaged U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's peace mission to the Middle East, thereby triggering the intifada, the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The foreign minister claimed as evidence Shamir's move to dispatch Herut Minister Moshe Arens to Washington last summer to persuade Shultz not to visit the region to promote the secretary's plan with King Hussein of Jordan and other Arab leaders.

Ben-Elissar, in turn, accused Peres of lying to the Foreign Affairs Committee about Israel's involvement in the Jonathan Pollard spy affair.

"Base calumny," shouted Peres, vowing he would never let Ben-Elissar "libel me again."

The supercharged atmosphere in the waning hours of this Knesset is not surprising. Each major party is warning the electorate that it will "never again" agree to a unity government. Each is urging voters to give it a governing majority.

#### DANISH NEWSPAPER SAYS THAT MOSSAD PLAYED PART IN ATTACK ON GREEK SHIP

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, July 26 (JTA) -- A Danish newspaper report widely circulated in Europe this week maintains that passengers killed and wounded July 11 aboard the Greek car ferry City of Poros were victims of the hidden war between Palestinian terrorists and Mossad, Israel's secret service.

Nine people died and 88 were wounded when gunmen opened fire with automatic weapons and hand grenades while the vessel was on a one-day cruise in the Saronic Gulf, with 471 passengers aboard.

A car loaded with explosives blew up on a coastal road near Athens at about the same time.

According to the newspaper BT, Mossad agents in Greece learned that terrorists of the Abu Nidal group planned to drive an explosive-laden car aboard the crowded ferry and hold its passengers hostage for the release of Palestinian prisoners by Israel.

Mossad then blew up the car, the paper said. When the terrorists aboard the ferry found out, they panicked and opened fire indiscriminately, setting the vessel ablaze.

Mossad agents aboard the ferry killed the terrorists, dived into the sea and were picked up by a speedboat that had been following the ferry, the newspaper account said.

An Israeli official asked to comment on this version told the Danish paper he found the scenario "very interesting."

Meanwhile, Greek police said the weapons used aboard the City of Poros were Berettas sold to the Libyan army in 1975 and 1976.

They also seem to lean to the Abu Nidal hostage theory. A previously unknown group calling itself the Organization of the Martyrs of the Popular Revolution in Palestine claimed responsibility for the attack.

It was publicly condemned, however, by the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has a diplomatic mission in Greece.

#### IDF LIFTS CURFEWS IN WEST BANK; RABIN DENIES UNREST IS WORSENING By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force lifted a three-day curfew on Nablus Tuesday evening as a goodwill gesture on the occasion of the Moslem feast of Id el-Adha.

The curfew had been in effect during the first three days of the four-day holiday that marks the end of the hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

It was imposed because of incessant rioting in the Nablus casbah. But according to Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the central region, the IDF hopes to create a calmer atmosphere by allowing, the largest Arab city in the West Bank to celebrate at least one day of the feast without curfew restrictions.

Curfews also were lifted at the Christian Arab villages of Beit Sahur and Beit Jala, near Bethlehem.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, meanwhile, accused the news media of exaggerating the facts by reporting that the Palestinian uprising is gaining momentum again.

Rabin told the Cabinet on Sunday that Nablus had been the only trouble spot, while the media created the impression that the entire situation was deteriorating.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres also took issue with media reports Tuesday that Jordan is washing its hands of any responsibility for the West Bank, meaning that the so-called Jordanian option is dead.

The Jordanian option, long advocated by Peres and his Labor Party colleagues, calls for making peace with Jordan and with the Palestinians, who would be part of a Jordanian negotiating team.

Peres reminded reporters at the Knesset that close to a million Arabs living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are Jordanian citizens holding Jordanian passports. He said he doubted that King Hussein would cut himself off from these people.

#### LABOR HAS EDGE OVER LIKUD IN POLL

TEL AVIV, July 26 (JTA) -- If Knesset elections were held this month, the Labor Party would beat the Likud bloc by a margin of just over 6 percent, according to a telephone poll conducted by the Decima Co. among 500 Israeli Jews in mid-July.

Labor would win 40.5 percent of the vote, and Likud would get 34.3 percent.

## EMPLOYEE SUES AUTO COMPANY ON CHARGES OF ANTI-SEMITISM

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA) -- The eastern regional manager of Korean-based Hyundai Motor America has been accused of a "willful and malicious" practice of discriminatory behavior directed against Jews, women and blacks, according to related cases filed in state and federal courts.

Allegations in a New Jersey state Superior Court suit by Susan Tetley, an employee at the car company's Cranbury, N.J., regional office, form the basis of a second federal suit in New York.

In both suits, Tetley attributes to regional manager Ed Gormley references to a personal "rating system" of employees and car dealers. According to the system, whites are accorded "ones," "niggers" "twos" and Jews "threes."

Tetley joined the company in 1985 as a senior secretary. Although now a facilities supervisor, she claims in her suit that Hyundai failed in its promises to promote her to administrative manager "on the basis that she is Jewish and female."

According to Tetley's court papers and statements she made to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Gormley refused to hire blacks and deliberately decreased the number of Jews receiving auto dealerships.

Furthermore, Tetley quoted Gormley as saying that there are "too many Jews" among Hyundai dealers and that he attempted to "reduce the percentage."

Gormley did not return repeated phone calls to his office in New Jersey.

### Denied Dealership

Tetley's allegations are included in a separate court deposition in connection with a case by Tom Nemet, a Queens, N.Y., auto dealer who charges that the company denied him a dealership because he is Jewish.

Nemet's breach-of-contract suit, originally filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York in May 1987, alleged that Hyundai had denied Nemet an automobile franchise despite his apparent qualifications.

The suit asks that Hyundai give him the dealership and pay damages amounting to the profits he would have earned had he not been denied the dealership two years ago.

The suit was amended under New York's anti-discrimination laws in June, after Tetley's allegations came to light.

According to her deposition, Tetley heard Gormley refer to Mr. Nemet as "that f----- Jewish bastard" and quoted him as saying that Nemet "is never going to be a dealer as long as I'm regional manager."

According to Tetley, Gormley, in a reference to Jews, said, "I understand why they exterminate all of them."

Hyundai is treating the cases separately in its response to the allegations.

According to Ted Kade, public relations manager at the company's U.S. headquarters in Garden Grove, Calif., Gormley was issued a reprimand for alleged statements in September 1987.

However, said Kade, "any bias attributed to Mr. Gormley has not played any role in his action towards employees, dealers or prospective dealers."

Kade said Hyundai neither condoned nor practiced "any type of discrimination," and will be vindicated.

ADL this week expressed "serious concern" about the allegations, and urged Hyundai to take immediate measures to "redress the situation."

Tetley declined to speak to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on the advice of her lawyers. But according to Nemet, who sells Jaguar, Volvo and Nissan automobiles, "The bottom line is that Hyundai claims I didn't get the dealership because my facilities didn't qualify. Quite frankly, that's a crock of bull."

Nemet said he was denied the dealership "because I did not wish to do business Gormley's way" and "because of Gormley's 'anti-Semitic bias.'"

Nemet called Tetley a "very, very special lady. To testify to this took a great deal of nerve."

### ABRAM TO SERVE EXTRA SIX MONTHS

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA) -- Morris Abram will serve an additional six months as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, as a result of a recent decision to have the term of office correspond to the calendar year.

Chairpersons of the Conference of Presidents normally serve two terms. Abram was elected to his first term beginning July 1, 1986, and re-elected to a second term beginning July 1, 1987.

He has been invited to extend his term to Dec. 31, 1988, in accordance with the decision reached last month by the conference's Committee on Scope, headed by Rabbi Joseph Glaser.

Abram accepted the invitation. The former vice chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights is also currently chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

### THATCHER APPOINTS OUSTED JEWISH POLITICIAN TO EUROPEAN COMMISSION

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 26 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has appointed a favorite Jewish politician of hers, Leon Brittan, to be one of two British members of the European Commission, the governing body of the 12-nation European Community headquartered in Brussels.

In so doing, she may be ending the political career of Brittan, a former minister of trade and industry in the Thatcher Cabinet. European commissioners may not sit as members of Parliament.

But Thatcher is rehabilitating the 49-year-old Brittan, who resigned ignominiously three years ago at the height of the so-called Westland helicopter scandal.

He quit, moreover, amid anti-Semitic jibes from Conservative Party backbenchers and important sections of the national press. Those outbursts were believed prompted by uneasiness over the significant number of Jews whom Thatcher has appointed to high Cabinet office.

Brittan will replace Lord Cockfield, 71, another former Conservative minister, on the commission. He apparently has become too enthusiastic about European integration for Thatcher's liking.

She is also not renewing the four-year appointment of another commissioner, Stanley Clinton Davis, a former Labor member of Parliament who is Jewish.

# **STRIKING DOCTORS RETURN TO JOBS, AS TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT RESUME**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 26 (JTA) -- Doctors at government and municipal hospitals resumed their normal work schedules Tuesday morning, ending -- at least for the moment -- seven months of strikes and sanctions that have crippled public health services in Israel.

The doctors announced their return at midnight, after the Health and Finance ministries agreed to negotiate the disputed issues without preconditions.

But the health care crisis is far from over. The nurses union and doctors employed by Histrut's health insurance agency, Kupat Holim, remain embroiled in bitter labor disputes and are curtailing their services.

Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino announced late Monday night that the government was prepared to negotiate with the state-employed physicians on the understanding that "each side was aware of the position of the other side."

That ended the standoff that developed Sunday when a near agreement fell apart, because the Treasury refused to talk to the doctors unless they first called off their job actions.

The nurses union has resorted to hunger strikes and mass "vacations" to press its demand for a 28 percent increase in the size of the nursing staffs at state hospitals. The government has offered to hire 24 percent more nurses, but the union says that is not enough.

The nurses began their hunger strike outside the Prime Minister's Office two weeks ago, subsisting on a liquid diet. But their numbers dwindled as hunger took its toll.

Two more nurses collapsed Tuesday, leaving only one to maintain their vigil. She is Ilana Cohen, a member of the strike committee, who is supported by a steady stream of fellow nurses and sympathetic doctors.

The Kupat Holim doctors are applying work sanctions to force their employers to reinstate salary increases agreed to last year.

# **NACHMANN APPEARS TO HAVE EMBEZZLED MORE FUNDS THAN ORIGINALLY THOUGHT**

By David Kantor

BONN, July 26 (JTA) -- The late Werner Nachmann appears to have embezzled more money than originally estimated from government funds set aside to pay compensation to Jews persecuted during the Nazi era.

Nachmann, who was chairman of the Central Council of Jews in West Germany until his sudden death in January, had access to the government funds entrusted to the Central Council for disbursement.

He apparently misappropriated some 33 million marks (\$18 million) of interest earned on the 400 million mark hardship reparations fund established by the Finance Ministry in Bonn.

But investigators are focusing now on 5 million marks (\$2.7 million) that disappeared from a 40 million mark government allowance to the Central Council.

Both funds were controlled by Nachmann. He and Alexander Ginsberg, former secretary of the Central Council, were the only Jewish community officers who had access to both bank accounts.

Sources close to the Central Council say it will take months to complete the investigation.

# **WJC TOLD NACHMANN SCANDAL WON'T AFFECT REPARATIONS**

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA) -- The embezzlement scandal uncovered in West Germany's Jewish community will not affect reparations payments, leaders of the World Jewish Congress assured recipients last week.

They were referring to the growing scandal involving the late Werner Nachmann, head of the Central Council of Jews in West Germany until his sudden death last January, who apparently misappropriated at least \$18 million the Bonn government provided and entrusted to the Central Council for payment to former Jewish persecutees.

The money has yet to be traced.

WJC President Edgar Bronfman is back from a visit to the Federal Republic, where he had three days of meetings with President Richard von Weizsacker and Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

He was accompanied by WJC Secretary-General Israel Singer and Elan Steinberg, the organization's executive director.

"A critical element in our talks was the need for clarification that in the wake of the Nachmann scandal, the victims -- the elderly recipients of payments -- would not suffer," Steinberg explained.

"We obtained these assurances," he added.

The WJC leaders confirmed that negotiations are currently under way with the Communist regime of East Germany to pay compensation to Nazi victims.

It is the first time in 40 years that East Germany acknowledged it had such an obligation. Until now, the regime maintained it was not responsible for the persecutions and atrocities committed in the Nazi era.

Their talks in Bonn also covered planned observances in West Germany and Austria of the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the pogrom on Nov. 9, 1938, that marked the beginning of systematic public persecution of Jews in both countries.

# **EAST GERMANS INVITE ISRAELI CHESS BUFF**

TEL AVIV, July 26 (JTA) -- Israel's senior chess coach, Yisrael Galfer, has been invited to lecture in East Germany.

He will participate in a 10-day seminar on the contributions of chess to the development of science and culture, Maariv reported Sunday.

The seminar opens Aug. 24. Galfer will be the first Israeli to attend. Until now, the Communist regime has refused to invite Israeli chess masters to compete in tournaments.

# **BELGIAN PROVOKES SPAT OVER SPIT**

BRUSSELS, July 26 (JTA) -- An incident in Bethlehem last Friday between Israeli soldiers and a Belgian diplomat has turned into an imbroglio.

The soldiers claim the diplomat, Roger de Wulf, spat at them. De Wulf, who is the Belgian consul general in East Jerusalem, insisted he did no more than cast a reproachful glance at three armed soldiers guarding a blindfolded Palestinian with his hands tied behind his back.

The consul general said he had been profoundly shocked by the sight.

The Foreign Ministry here had no comment on the incident. Diplomatic sources said it was not likely to affect the traditionally friendly relations between Belgium and Israel.