

# **HERZOG ASSAILS DEFEATISM IN ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 11 (JTA) — Israel faced trying challenges in the past year but managed well, "compared to larger and older states in similar circumstances," President Chaim Herzog declared in his Rosh Hashanah message to the nation, broadcast on Israel Radio Saturday night.

Speaking against the background of the continuing Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Herzog urged Israelis not to lose confidence in themselves or in the democratic values and processes that have guided the nation in its first 40 years of independence.

He cautioned against defeatism and against internal power struggles that victimize the citizenry. And he called for civility in the national debate surrounding the election campaign.

Much of the speech was somber. "The past year has not been an easy one for the state of Israel," Herzog said. "We faced difficult tests. The events in Judea and Samaria and Gaza — another stage in our continuous national struggle — raised basic questions in our public life.

"The values dictating the conduct of our soldiers were severely tried, as was the strength of our legal system and the self-control and calm of our public," the president said.

"We have passed these tests well. Despite provocations and pressures and despite distressing exceptions, our administrative and judicial systems have stood up well, guarded the values of justice and basic human rights, remained open to public criticism and not been tempted to adopt extreme positions.

"It is in restraint and calm that our strength and persistence are expressed," he asserted.

## **'Unjustified Guilt Complex'**

"The elections soon to take place are indeed the highest expression of democracy," Herzog said. "This should be the finest hour of Israeli democracy — perhaps an hour of historic decision on matters of national importance.

"As the national debate opens, violent and undisciplined actions must be condemned, along with personal vilification and emphasis on individuals rather than on policies," Herzog stressed.

He expressed "very grave fears that there has been a deterioration in our belief in the justice of our cause." He warned that "self-castigation and an unjustified guilt complex among some portions of the Israeli community weaken the strength of this belief among the people."

Continuing on the same theme, Herzog said it is "of primary importance that we respect ourselves, our national symbols, our flag, our anthem, our uniform, which generations upon generations of our people over the centuries would have given their right hand to live to see."

The president observed that "our little state" has achieved world recognition in such fields as medicine, education, technological development, agriculture and scientific research.

"These advances and, above all, the amazing ingathering of exiles and the molding of the nation have gone on, despite the unending strug-

gle, the threats to our very existence, the economic and social difficulties with which we must contend.

"Without disregarding our deficiencies in the past and the serious problems facing us," he said, "we still have every right to be proud of the achievements of our people and of all that we have built in our land."

Herzog concluded: "It is our profoundest hope that in the year 5749, we will advance substantially toward our three main national goals: security and peace on our borders, order and prosperity in our lives, and the continuing return to Zion of our far-flung people."

# **JEWISH ACTIVISTS PLEASED OVER BUSH REMOVAL OF ETHNIC COALITION MEMBER** By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 (JTA) — Jewish activists from both political parties welcomed Vice President George Bush's decision last week to dismiss a member of his ethnic campaign panel linked to anti-Semitic activities.

But they reserved judgement on two other members of the panel who are still being probed.

The Bush campaign on Thursday dismissed Jerome Brentar, co-chairman of Bush's Coalition of American Nationalities, after a report by Larry Cohler in the Washington Jewish Week that said Brentar was active in efforts to defend John Demjanjuk.

Known as "Ivan the Terrible," Demjanjuk was sentenced to death last spring by an Israeli court for war crimes he committed as a Nazi guard at the Treblinka death camp.

Brentar was also linked to the Institute for Historical Review, a group based in Torrance, Calif., that is a leader in the Holocaust revisionist movement.

Two other members of the nationalities coalition, Florian Galdau and Philip Guarino, are being investigated for anti-Jewish activities or links to fascist groups.

David Sandor, a spokesman for the Bush campaign, said Friday that in the cases of Galdau and Guarino, Bush will not decide on their fate "until there is substantiation" of the charges.

"If there is, we will obviously take the appropriation action at that time," he said.

Sandor added that "the only real official statement" on the issue was from campaign Chairman James Baker III, who was quoted as saying "there is absolutely no room for anti-Semitism or bigotry of any sort in our campaign."

Jacob Stein, former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and a Republican Jewish activist, praised Baker and Bush on Friday for quickly dismissing Brentar.

## **Charges 'Being Checked Out'**

He said that in the other two cases, "allegations are being checked out." Stein said if charges against them are true, "those parties will be dismissed" as well.

Stein denied that the revelations may alienate Jewish voters in the same way that a prayer breakfast at the 1984 Republican National Convention did. The breakfast, attended by President

Reagan, included prayers for Jesus and distribution of Bibles containing the New Testament.

Stein said that in this instance, the logic "should work just the other way. Here's a Bush campaign which is truly committed to ending anti-Semitism and not tolerating bigotry in its midst."

Marshall Breger, chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States and a former Reagan White House liaison to the Jewish community, praised the Jewish Week for bringing the issue to the campaign's attention.

He said that the matter of Brentar "was resolved before the article left the printing house Thursday and arrived in people's homes for Shabbat. You cannot expect any quicker action than that."

Breger called on Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis to condemn supporters in Chicago and elsewhere who are "associated with anti-Semitism."

#### Dukakis On Anti-Semitism

Hyman Bookbinder, special adviser to Dukakis on the Middle East, human rights and the underprivileged, said Dukakis did condemn those associated with anti-Semitism in his speech at the B'nai B'rith International convention Wednesday.

In that speech, Dukakis said, "It is up to all of us, public officials and private citizens, to speak out forcefully against anti-Semitism, racism, and every form of bigotry, whether in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles or New York, or anywhere else in America."

Bookbinder said he was "glad" Brentar was dismissed, and expects that "nobody else is left with that kind of background" as a member of the committee.

He added that while it is "unfair" to suggest that Bush knew the backgrounds of the committee members, it is not unfair to ask why "they chose Bush as the person they want to support?"

#### U.S. STRIPS TWO EX-NAZIS OF NATURALIZATION PAPERS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Two Nazi war criminals living in the United States, Stefan Reger and Juris Kauls, were ordered denaturalized by two different judges Thursday.

Reger, 63, of Yardville, N.J., was denaturalized by U.S. District Court Judge Clarkson Fisher in Newark, N.J., on the basis of his service as an SS guard at the Auschwitz II (Birkenau) concentration camp between 1943 and 1945.

Kauls, 75, of Sun City, Ariz., was denaturalized by U.S. District Court Judge Robert Bloomfield in Phoenix by a default judgment based on Kauls' failure to respond to government charges that he served at a Nazi concentration camp in Latvia during World War II, and concealed that service from federal immigration officials.

The two actions were among the 29 cases pending before U.S. courts brought by U.S. district attorneys and the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which searches out and tries to prosecute accused Nazi war criminals living in the United States.

Reger, who has fled to West Germany, was not there for the verdict, but admitted in sworn testimony that he had served as a SS guard at Auschwitz.

Born in Yugoslavia, Reger immigrated to the United States in 1952 and became a citizen in

1957. He had contended in his immigration forms that he had simply been a combat soldier in the German army.

Kauls was prosecuted with the aid of official papers that were stored in the Berlin Document Center in West Berlin -- captured intact from the Nazis by the U.S. Army -- which showed "handwritten resumes Kauls had submitted to Nazis in which he admitted to being inspector of guards at the Riga concentration camp," an OSI source said.

Kauls entered the United States in 1954 and became a U.S. citizen in 1960. Neal Sher, OSI director, said Kauls, like Reger, has left the United States and will not be allowed to return.

#### EGYPTIAN COAST GUARD SEIZURE OF ISRAELI BOAT CRITICIZED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Israeli officials have expressed disapproval of the Egyptian coast guard's move to ram and seize an Israeli excursion boat in the Gulf of Eilat on Friday. But the Foreign Ministry is awaiting further details of the incident before deciding how Israel will respond.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday that the incident was not the sort of thing that should occur between friendly nations and was "completely unnecessary."

Information so far indicates that the seizure was an independent initiative, not coordinated with authorities in Cairo. The Maya, with 35 Israeli passengers and crew aboard, was intercepted by the Egyptian patrol ship, rammed and towed to the Egyptian coast guard station on Coral Island in the gulf.

The Maya's deck and hull were damaged, but no one was hurt. Its passengers and crew were detained. After several hours, they were allowed to return to Eilat aboard the Maya, apparently on orders from the authorities in Cairo.

The captain of the Maya, Moshe Saar, said he was about a mile offshore when attacked. He said the Egyptians ordered him not to use his radio. He also said he refused to sign a statement that his vessel had sustained no damage.

According to the Egyptians, the Maya was only about 300 yards offshore in Egyptian waters and failed to heed orders to stand clear.

An Israeli fishing boat with six persons aboard was reported to have been seized by the Egyptian navy in the Red Sea on Friday. Apparently no further information had been received by Sunday to confirm the report.

Meanwhile, the Maya was off again Sunday, carrying about 30 tourists. The damage will be repaired at a later date.

#### FOUR TERRORISTS CAPTURED IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Four armed Lebanese terrorists plotting a bombing in Israel were captured by an Israel Defense Force patrol Saturday in the southern Lebanon security zone.

One terrorist was seriously wounded in the exchange of fire. There were no Israeli casualties.

The terrorists were identified as members of the Lebanese Communist Party. The clash occurred on rough terrain north of Taibeh village, less than four miles from the Israeli border of the Galilee panhandle.

In the past three weeks, the IDF and its allied South Lebanon Army have killed or captured 14 terrorists in or near the security zone.

## PERES SAYS YES TO MEETING WITH REAGAN AND EGYPTIAN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres formally accepted a U.S. invitation to meet in New York with President Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz and Egypt's Foreign Minister Ismat Abdel Meguid.

Peres wrote to Washington on Friday that the Sept. 26 meeting, which has triggered controversy here, could be a welcome opportunity to ensure that avenues toward peace are open for the new administrations in the United States and Israel.

The meeting, Peres added, would also be a constructive forum for exchanging views on ongoing regional developments.

Informed sources in Jerusalem revealed that it was not until this week that Washington made it clear that the president himself would chair the meeting.

As a result, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Likud leaders charged that the meeting was planned to assist Peres and his Labor Alignment in the election campaign.

Until this week, the diplomatic discussion between Washington and Jerusalem had proceeded on the understanding that Shultz would chair the meeting, and Shamir had not expressed any reservations over that format.

Israeli sources agree with officials in Cairo, who have been quoted as saying that Reagan will probably use the occasion to attempt a last-ditch effort at a compromise agreement over Tabá.

Direct talks between the two sides on Tabá have reached an impasse, and an international panel of arbitrators is due to present its formal -- and binding -- verdict at the beginning of October.

## EUROPEANS SHOULD PRESSURE PLO TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL, SAYS EBAN

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization can decisively influence Israel's parliamentary elections Nov. 1, according to Labor Party Knesset member Abba Eban.

"A clear declaration, the recognition of Israel and the renunciation of terrorism (by the PLO) would help the Labor Party," Eban told reporters after meetings here Friday with Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and Socialist Party leader Bettino Craxi.

Eban, a former foreign minister and presently chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, is on a mission on behalf of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party.

He is visiting Western European capitals to persuade national leaders not to endorse purported plans by the PLO to declare an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and to set up a government in exile.

He is also urging Western European countries to pressure the PLO to recognize Israel. The Labor Party is "ready to negotiate with any Palestinians disposed to recognize Israel and renounce terrorism," Eban said.

He challenged PLO chief Yasir Arafat "to find the courage to make a unilateral gesture" toward Israel. If Israel did not respond, "there would be time to do an about-face," Eban said.

Both Andreotti and Craxi have been sympa-

thetic to the Palestinian cause, while upholding Israel's right to security. Nevertheless, the Italian foreign minister told him that "Italy will not recognize a Palestinian government in exile," Eban said.

## SIMONE VEIL APPROACHED BY ARABS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN PLO, ISRAEL

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- The Arab League has approached Simone Veil several times recently to act as "mediator" between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel, well-informed sources here said over the weekend.

They said that Veil, leader of the Liberal group in the Strasbourg-based Parliament of Europe, disclosed these approaches last week at a meeting of the group in Aarhus, Denmark.

Veil, a French Jew and survivor of Auschwitz, is a former president of the 12-nation parliament and a former French Cabinet minister. She reportedly told her colleagues in Aarhus that she would not reject a mediating role, but thinks the timing is inappropriate for several reasons.

Veil has strongly opposed the invitation European Socialists extended to PLO chief Yasir Arafat to visit the parliament in Strasbourg next week.

The Socialists, with 165 deputies, are the largest single bloc in the parliament. They will be joined by several other factions for their meeting with Arafat Tuesday evening at the Palais de l'Europe.

The Liberals officially will boycott the meeting. But several Liberal parliamentarians from Spain, Portugal and Denmark are forming a "dissident" delegation to meet the PLO chief.

They argue that "no occasion should be missed to talk with PLO leaders, despite the grave reproaches which can be addressed to this organization," a parliament source said.

## SOVIET OFFICIAL URGED TO FREE REFUSENIK AILING WITH CANCER

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- The case of a Jewish refusenik suffering from cancer has been taken up at the highest level in Moscow by Lord Plumb of Britain, president of the Strasbourg-based Parliament of Europe.

Plumb is making the first official visit to the Soviet capital by a president of the parliament. His spokesman, Lionel Stanbrook, said here Friday that he discussed the predicament of Georgi Samoilovich with Andrei Gromyko, president of the USSR.

Plumb "asked Gromyko for details about the case of the Jewish refusenik, who is suffering from cancer for which there is treatment only in the United States," Stanbrook said.

The Soviet OVIR office informed Samoilovich on Thursday that he would not be given a medical visa for cancer therapy being offered him at a hospital in New Jersey. News of the refusal was reported in Washington by Pamela Cohen, president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

Samoilovich, 63, was diagnosed by a visiting American doctor as having large-cell lymphoma.

It is essential that Samoilovich undergo surgery not available in Moscow within three weeks, Lord Plumb's office said.

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

## UIA HEAD SAYS GOODBYE AFTER A 14-YEAR TERM By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- "The United Israel Appeal is not just a bookkeeper," says Irving Kessler, the agency's outgoing executive vice chairman. "It is a real bridge, a bridge between the American Jewish community and Israel."

Kessler, who has just retired after 14 years of service at the UIA, said that while the UIA provides the funds for housing, immigration, absorption, rural settlement, youth care and other social needs in Israel -- funds that are collected on its behalf by the United Jewish Appeal -- its role does not end with giving the monies.

"We have reached a real partnership with the people of Israel," Kessler said in a recent interview. He pointed out that the UIA has been instrumental in such ventures as Project Renewal, the plan to rehabilitate Israel's deprived neighborhoods, and Operation Moses, the rescue operation of Ethiopian Jews that began at the end of 1984.

In addition to being responsible for the expenditure of UIA funds in Israel, the UIA is also responsible to various U.S. governmental agencies for funds and materials received under the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Grants and other programs. Kessler said that in the last 15 years, Congress allocated about \$400 million to the UIA.

Kessler disclosed that the State Department contacted the UIA on the eve of the secretive Operation Moses, to see if the organization could raise the money necessary for the costly operation.

"We had paid for each and every plane that rescued the Jews of Ethiopia during Operation Moses," Kessler related. He noted that the UIA has a "banking ability" that few, if any, of the major American Jewish organizations have, "to borrow millions of dollars from American banks in an emergency."

Kessler also said that the UIA and its leaders were instrumental in shaping Project Renewal. "The leaders of Israel said to us, 'You bring the funds and we will take care of the rest,'" he recalled.

### American Involvement

"But we were the ones who insisted on the involvement of American Jewish communities in the rehabilitation program and the twinning of American neighborhoods with Project Renewal neighborhoods in Israel."

Kessler said there have been many changes in UIA operation since he joined it in 1974. "Over the last 14 years, we created a whole system in Israel in which Americans are playing a major role determining Jewish Agency programs."

He pointed out that while a decade ago only 30 UIA delegates attended the Jewish Agency Assembly, this year almost 400 UIA delegates were present.

"The attitudes of American Jews have changed," he said. "They want to know now where their money goes and what is done with it in Israel," Kessler said.

He said that following the Six-Day War in 1967, American Jews showed more interest in, and awareness of, anything that concerns Israel.

"They are more involved and they are more informed than they ever have been," he said.

More than a year ago, Kessler said, the UIA

"revamped its structure to strengthen federation and UIA involvement."

The change turned the UIA board of directors, which now has 63 members, "to one that is the most representative body in American Jewry," representing tens of Jewish federations, religious and Zionist organizations.

The 66-year-old Kessler, who will continue as a consultant to the UIA, is succeeded by Herman Markowitz of Minneapolis as executive vice chairman of the organization.

## REAGAN NAMES ORTHODOX RABBI AS ALTERNATE U.N. DELEGATE By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, has been nominated by President Reagan as an alternate U.S. representative to the U.N. General Assembly session, which opens Sept. 20.

The 58-year-old Orthodox rabbi has been religious leader of the Park East Synagogue in Manhattan since 1962.

In a telephone interview, Schneier said that while he will be representing the United States on all the issues that the U.S. delegation faces at the United Nations, he hopes to focus on human rights and religious freedom, which has been an ongoing concern of his for years.

As president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, Schneier has frequently visited the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and Eastern Europe to discuss these issues with the leaders of those countries.

"It's going to be quite a challenge," he said of his appointment. Schneier said he hopes to be able to give the human rights policy, which Reagan enunciated during the Moscow summit "the broadest echo" in a global forum.

The Vienna-born Schneier is also the first rabbi to be named a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

## COURT REJECTS NEO-NAZI'S APPEAL By David Kantor

BONN, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Neo-Nazi activist Karl-Heinz Hoffmann lost his appeal against a nine-and-a-half-year jail sentence Saturday.

The penalty was upheld by a federal court in Karlsruhe, a city in the southwestern part of the Federal Republic.

Hoffmann, leader of a paramilitary organization whose members trained at Palestine Liberation Organization bases in Lebanon, was convicted on June 30, 1986.

A Nuremberg court found him guilty of forging documents, illegally possessing arms and circulating Nazi and anti-Semitic propaganda.

The cooperation between Hoffmann and the PLO was the most concrete evidence yet of contacts between neo-Nazi groups and Palestinian terrorists. The PLO has never admitted the contacts, although they have been confirmed by the West German courts.

## ISRAEL'S POPULATION UP SLIGHTLY

TEL AVIV, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- Israel's population grew by just over 1.5 percent last year, reaching 4,455,000 at Rosh Hashanah, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced here Friday. Jews constitute 82 percent of the population.