

**KACH BARRED FROM ELECTIONS;  
KAHANE APPEALING TO HIGH COURT**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- The Central Election Committee voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to bar Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach party from running in the general elections Nov. 1.

Kach promptly appealed the decision to the High Court of Justice, Israel's supreme court. It must render a verdict before next Wednesday, the deadline for closing the election lists.

The Central Election Committee acted on a 1984 amendment to the Basic Law that bars parties engaged in incitement to racism.

The move, not unexpected, has suddenly put the High Court of Justice in the unusual position of appearing to be crucial to the outcome of the election. Its decision on Kach may well determine which party will form the next government, many political pundits believe.

The weight of opinion here is that the elimination of Kach would send its voters swarming back to Premier Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc, from where most originally came.

According to current polls, Kach stands to win nearly 100,000 votes, which translate into three or four Knesset seats. It presently has one seat.

In a close election, where every seat is crucial, the diversion of those 100,000 votes to Likud could turn it into the largest single political party.

The president of Israel is bound by custom and long usage to give the largest faction the first mandate to try to form a government.

**No Gain For Smaller Parties**

This scenario is based on the premise that if Kach is not on the ballot, its supporters would not spread their votes among the other small, ultraright-wing parties.

These are Tehiya; Moledet, established recently by reserve Gen. Rehavam Zeevi; and Tsomet, established by Gen. Rafael Eitan, a former Israel Defense Force chief of staff, when he broke with Tehiya.

All three parties are closer to Kach's ideological stance than is Likud. Kach's platform calls for the eviction of all Arabs from Israel and the administered territories, by force if necessary.

Moledet endorses the transfer of Arabs out of the country. Tsomet calls for the harsh suppression of the Palestinian uprising. And Tehiya demands the mass deportation of Palestinian activists from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But there is also a sociological factor, political analysts say. Tehiya and the generals' factions are viewed in the urban slums and new development towns -- the bastions of Kahane's strength -- as somehow Ashkenazic, establishment parties.

Likud, even after 11 years in office, is still seen by the underprivileged as the party of protest, anti-establishment and an authentic expression of popular, gut-level sentiment.

But Kach consistently has taken votes away from Likud in the poor suburbs and development towns where Likud had painstakingly established ascendancy over Labor in the 1970s.

It may not be entirely coincidental, therefore, that Likud, more than any other party, pushed for passage of the Basic Law amendment of 1984, under which Kach may be denied a place on the ballot.

At the Election Committee session Wednesday, Kach lawyer Rahamim Cohen argued that the party's position on the Arabs does not stem from racism, but rather the conviction that the Arab community is hostile and dangerous to the Jewish state.

Judge Eliezer Goldberg, the panel chairman, and some 30 politicians of all parties who comprise the committee categorically rejected that reasoning.

Only the National Religious Party and the Poale Agudat Yisrael supported Kach. Tehiya abstained.

Kach also was charged, under the 1984 amendment, with rejection of the democratic nature of the state. It was indicted on that count by a smaller majority. Goldberg sided with the minority and backed Kach on that issue.

**THREE JEWISH CHILDREN WOUNDED****BY CHALLAH BOMB IN JERUSALEM**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- Three Jewish children in Jerusalem were injured in a bomb explosion on the eve of Simchat Torah during a bloody weekend of violence in which at least two Arabs were killed and dozens wounded in the administered territories.

The weekend also was marked by a violent confrontation between the Israel Defense Force and members of Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach movement.

About a half million Palestinians were placed under curfew in the Gaza Strip, where some of the worst rioting occurred.

But Israelis were shocked most by the wounding of three young sisters Sunday, when a booby-trapped loaf of Sabbath challah exploded in a grocery store.

The victims, Semadar Haddad, 12, and her sisters, Inbal, 7, and Hadas, 5, were hospitalized to remove shrapnel from their legs. Their wounds were reported to be light.

The youngsters are residents of the Musrara neighborhood. The incident occurred at shop in the adjacent ultra-Orthodox neighborhood of Mea Shearim, near the border between East and West Jerusalem.

Another challah bomb exploded Sunday in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, without causing casualties or damage. It was tossed into the street after the shopkeeper and a customer became suspicious of evidence of tampering.

**Arab Fatalities In Hebron**

The Arab fatalities occurred Friday in Hebron: one in a clash with security forces and the other under unclear circumstances involving an armed Jewish settler.

The incidents began when a car driven by Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a leader of the militant settlers movement Gush Emunim, came under a barrage of rocks in Hebron. Levinger's four children were in the car.

Levinger fired into the air. IDF soldiers pursued the rock-throwers, firing tear gas and live bullets. A local Arab merchant, Kaed Hassan Sallah, was fatally wounded.

Arabs in Hebron blamed Levinger for Sallah's death. The IDF is investigating the incident.

Shortly afterward, an Arab youth was shot to death by soldiers during a rock-throwing incident on the edge of town.

Arabs in Hebron promptly called a general strike. As the news spread, clashes developed throughout the territories between security forces and Palestinians. About 18 Arabs were wounded.

The strike continued Monday to protest a decision by the Israeli authorities not to reopen schools.

#### Kach Sit-Down Strike

The IDF also had to contend with a sit-down strike by angry Jewish settlers at the spot in Hebron where Levinger's car was stoned. The army declared the area a closed military zone and cordoned it off. The settlers threatened to resume their demonstration as soon as it was reopened.

A group of 20 Kach activists were arrested over the weekend, after violently resisting soldiers who attempted to remove them from an old synagogue in the West Bank town of Jericho, near the Dead Sea.

The Kach group was trying to establish a settlement illegally at the synagogue site.

It was learned, meanwhile, that the army intends to bring criminal charges against another three soldiers suspected of killing Arab residents of the Gaza Strip in disregard of regulations.

Four IDF soldiers were charged with manslaughter last week in the death of a resident of the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza.

#### ISRAELIS VISITING BULGARIA; AIRLINE SERVICE PLANNED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- Prominent Israelis will be visiting Bulgaria in the next few weeks, and preliminary discussions are under way aimed at establishing commercial airline service between Israel and Bulgaria, it was reported here Tuesday.

Bulgaria broke diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1967 Six-Day War, as did all Soviet bloc nations except Romania. But lately a thaw has set in.

Representatives of Arkia, Israel's domestic airline, were joined in Sofia this week by officials of El Al, Israel's international carrier, and by Shai Shohami, head of Israel's Civil Aviation Administration.

They are discussing the inauguration of flights with Bulgarian officials. Arkia has recently gone into the overseas charter field.

Meanwhile, Shulamit Shamir, wife of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir, has been invited by the Bulgarian government to attend ceremonies marking the rescue of Bulgarian Jewry during World War II. She is no stranger to Bulgaria, having been born there and visited in recent years.

Commerce and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon will go to Sofia this week to discuss economic and other issues with senior Bulgarian ministers.

Abba Eban, outgoing chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee will also visit Bulgaria soon within the framework of his European information campaign on behalf of Israel.

#### REAGAN LAYS CORNERSTONE OF U.S. HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- President Reagan dedicated the cornerstone of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on Wednesday with a denunciation of anti-Semitism and a vow that "the Jewish people will never stand alone against tyranny."

"The Jewish people were on this earth at the time of the pyramids," Reagan told the several hundred persons attending the dedication ceremony, held under a tent on the site of the future museum, near the Washington Monument.

"Those structures are still standing and the Jews are still here. We must make sure that when the tall towers of our biggest cities have crumbled," the president said, "the Jewish people will still be on this earth."

Former President Jimmy Carter, in a message to the ceremony, said the museum is a promise that "never again will the world stand silent, never again will the world look the other way or fail to act in time to prevent this terrible crime of genocide."

He reminded the audience that he had created the President's Commission on the Holocaust in 1979, which eventually led to the decision to create the museum.

He said he was "looking forward" to joining Reagan and his successor at the ceremony when the museum opens in late 1990. The museum is on land donated by the federal government, but the \$170 million needed for construction and exhibits is being raised privately.

Harvey Meyerhoff of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, said funds are coming in, ranging from the pennies of school children to large donations of \$1 million or more from 19 individuals, families and foundations.

#### Genocide Bill Held Up

One disappointment at the otherwise moving ceremony was that the Senate still had not adopted a bill long under consideration that would implement the United Nations convention against genocide.

Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Judiciary Committee, of which he is a member, was still deadlocked in negotiations. He said the bill should have been passed long ago without any hindrances.

The bill is being held up by Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.).

Sources told JTA that a vote on the bill could happen as early as Wednesday night or Thursday.

The president, who reportedly has been pushing for the adoption of the bill, which would make genocide a crime in the United States, had hoped to sign it into law at Wednesday's ceremony.

In denouncing anti-Semitism, Reagan attacked those in the United States who are engaged in the "disgusting task of minimizing or even denying the truth of the Holocaust. This act of intellectual genocide must not go unchallenged."

Reagan is chairman of the honorary campaign committee for the museum.

Three other members of the honorary committee were on the dias: Warren Burger, former chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court; Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations; and Dr. Billy Graham, the evangelist.

## FORMER SS GUARD AT AUSCHWITZ ORDERED DEPORTED FROM U.S.

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- A U.S. immigration judge has ordered the deportation of Josef Eckert for concealing his service as an SS guard at Auschwitz when he entered the United States in 1956.

According to the U.S. Justice Department, Eckert, now 74, was a member of the Totenkopf-Sturmabteilung (Death's Head Battalion), a unit notorious for its brutality, even by SS standards. Between 1943 and 1945, he "assisted or otherwise participated in the persecution" of Auschwitz inmates, according to documentation obtained by the department's Office of Special Investigations.

Eckert eventually admitted under oath that he served at Auschwitz. The OSI found Eckert as part of its ongoing program of comparing SS personnel rosters with U.S. personnel rosters. The agency has compared tens of thousands of names on the two lists. Eckert's name came back as a match.

Eckert, a retired Los Angeles factory worker and an ethnic German native of a part of Austro-Hungary that is now Yugoslavia, has asked that he be deported to Austria. This despite the fact that the Austrian government put him on a wanted list in 1960 on charges of "murder in the concentration camp Auschwitz."

Authorities in Vienna did not know of Eckert's whereabouts until the deportation proceedings initiated against him in late December were publicized, according to Ulf Pacher of the Austrian Consulate in Los Angeles.

Eckert's next step is application for an emigrant visa to Austria. An OSI spokesman said Wednesday that the Austrians are under legal obligation to give him a visa, because of an agreement between the United States and Austria dating to the 1950s.

Under the accord, Austria promised to accept the return of those natives who immigrate to the United States by fraudulent means. Eckert has admitted lying his way into the United States, the OSI official said.

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

## PENTAGON RESCINDS DIRECTIVE LIMITING WEARING OF YARMULKES

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci last week rescinded a Pentagon directive that would have allowed military officers to bar the wearing of visible religious garb "under unique circumstances, such as basic and initial military skills and specialty training."

The original directive was issued Feb. 3, to help implement a bill signed into law a few weeks earlier that protected, among other things, the right of Orthodox Jews in the military to wear "neat and conservative" yarmulkes, as long as they do not interfere in the performance of military duties.

Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), who sponsored the bills in Congress last year, argued in a May 6 letter to Carlucci that the directive "would undermine, if not eliminate, the effect of the religious apparel amendment."

"Preventing an Orthodox Jew from wearing a

yarmulke during initial military training would represent severe blows to his religious observance as well as to his morale," they told Carlucci.

Stephen Silbiger, Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress, called Carlucci's Sept. 29 move "a victory for religious freedom."

## SYRIAN IS LATEST OF ANTI-ISRAEL SPEAKERS AT U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- Warning that "the Arab-Israel conflict continues to escalate," a top Syrian official called Wednesday for the convening of an international peace conference, with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to settle the Middle East dispute.

In an address to the General Assembly, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara said that while other international conflicts are in the process of being resolved, there is not "even a sign" that the Middle East conflict is progressing toward a solution.

Shara said that as long as Israel continues to occupy Arab lands, there can be no peace. He said that an international peace conference under U.N. auspices should be convened on the basis of Israel's "complete withdrawal" from the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

Shara also said that Palestinian rights to self-determination and to a state of their own also must serve as a basis for the peace conference.

The Syrian official said that no progress for peace is likely to result from the general election in Israel and the United States. He charged that the platforms of both major parties in Israel, Labor and Likud, "are not for peace," and that the U.S. government is under Israel's influence.

"The special relations between Israel and the United States do not serve peace and are in fact an obstacle to peace" in the Middle East, the foreign minister declared.

### Rhetoric Not As Sharp

Shara also said that the United Nations has failed, because it did not impose sanctions on Israel for not abiding by various U.N. resolutions.

Diplomats and observers here noted that the Syrian rhetoric against Israel this year was not as sharp as in previous general assemblies. They pointed out, however, that in essence the Syrian demands remained as rigid as in the past.

Shara met later in the day with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and discussed with him the situation in the Middle East, in general, and in Lebanon, in particular.

Shara's address was not the only negative one on Israel here this week. Addressing the General Assembly on Tuesday, Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz of Iraq accused "Zionist circles" of conducting "a campaign against Iraq" by collaborating with the Iranian regime in the belief that a continuation of the war between Iran and Iraq would be "a gain for Israel."

The Libyan delegate to the United Nations, Gadallah Azouq el-Talhi, in a speech to the General Assembly the same day, also accused the United States of siding with Israel and being therefore against a solution in the region.

He called Washington "the protector of the Zionist entity" and the main obstacle in efforts to reach a peaceful solution in the Middle East.

## ORTHODOX CANADIAN JEW BUYS BAKKERS' PTL EMPIRE

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- An Orthodox Jew from Toronto is buying the bankrupt PTL empire of Christian television evangelists Jim and Tammy Bakker.

News that Stephen Mernick, 34, put in the winning bid of \$115 million for the PTL assets, mostly in Fort Mill, S.C., surprised the Jewish community here, where Mernick, a third-generation Torontonion, has been something of a mystery man.

The bid was disclosed by the PTL ministry at a news conference Tuesday in Charlotte, N.C., attended by Mernick's lawyers.

Mernick himself remained at home because he would not travel on Simchat Torah. He was quoted by his lawyers as saying PTL property should continue to be used for Christian purposes.

It includes a television studio, the Heritage USA theme park, a campground, a church and private housing. PTL's debts exceed \$130 million.

If the creditors and U.S. bankruptcy court support the recommendations of trustee M.L. Benton, Mernick must come up with \$50 million by Dec. 1, when the deal is closed. The balance is payable in annual installments until 1993.

Mernick's businesses in Canada are real estate, a travel agency, garbage collection, clothing and waste recycling. They are said to have annual sales of \$5 million.

Six months ago, Mernick successfully bid \$100 million for the Firestone tire plant in Hamilton, Ont. It has ceased producing tires and Mernick apparently intends to sell off its assets.

Mernick is a member of the Clanton Park Synagogue, an Orthodox congregation in the Toronto suburb of Downsview. He wears a beard and has appeared on television in the black cloak and black felt hat of an ultra-Orthodox Jew.

At the news conference in Charlotte, his lawyers read a statement in which Mernick said: "While I am not a Christian, I have a great deal of respect for the depth of the religious feeling of the many thousands of Christians who have supported the Heritage Ministries over the years."

According to some observers, that statement might indicate that Mernick is inviting bidders to lease or purchase the property for Christian purposes.

But his lawyers told the Toronto Globe & Mail that Mernick has not decided what to do with the property.

The PTL filed for protection against creditors in June 1987, three months after Bakker resigned the ministry after admitting to a sexual encounter with a young church secretary.

## LATE BAVARIAN PRIME MINISTER WAS PROPONENT OF ARMS TO ARABS

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- Franz-Josef Strauss, the prime minister of Bavaria, who died of a heart attack Saturday at age 73, was a strong advocate of close military cooperation between West Germany and Israel.

But he was also, in recent years, a powerful proponent of the sale of sophisticated West German weaponry to Arab states officially at war with Israel, notably Saudi Arabia.

Strauss headed the ultraconservative Christian Social Union, a party indigenous to Bavaria

but influential in national politics.

As defense minister during the late 1950s, Strauss was responsible for developing a military relationship between Israel and the Federal Republic.

Under his leadership, Bonn became an important arms supplier of the Jewish state, despite Israelis' fresh memories of the Holocaust.

Strauss also became a close partner and personal friend of Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, when he was a rising star in Israel's defense establishment, eventually becoming minister of defense.

But by the 1960s, West Germany, under intense Arab pressure was obliged to abandon its arms shipments to Israel.

In the '70s and '80s, Strauss became acutely critical of Israel's retention of the Arab territories it captured in the 1967 Six-Day War. He remained fully committed, however, to secure borders for the Jewish state.

Nevertheless, Strauss openly challenged Bonn's policy of limiting arms sales to Arab countries. He personally pledged massive shipments of tanks and other equipment to Saudi Arabia and other Middle East states.

Strauss served as an artillery officer in the German army in France and on the Russian front in World War II, until he was invalidated out of service. He was cleared of Nazi affiliations by the Allies after the war.

In later years, he successfully brought libel suits against West German magazines that accused him of having been a Nazi.

## YOUTH CHARGED WITH VANDALISM OF SHUL TO BE TRIED AS ADULT

NEW YORK, Oct. 4 (JTA) -- A 15-year-old youth, one of two accused of vandalizing and burning a Brooklyn synagogue last month, will be tried as an adult, it was announced here Monday.

This means that the suspect, Louis Franceschi, who has been indicted by a grand jury, will stand trial in state Supreme Court, instead of Family Court, where juveniles are normally tried.

He also will face more severe punishment if convicted.

Franceschi was arraigned in Supreme Court on Monday. He is charged with second-degree burglary, second-degree criminal mischief and first-degree reckless endangerment, all felonies, and with two misdemeanors.

Franceschi pleaded not guilty and was ordered held on \$10,000 bail by Justice Richard Goldberg.

The indictment charges that on the night of Sept. 16, during the period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Franceschi and a companion broke into Congregation Rabbinical Institute Sharai Torah, an Orthodox synagogue in the Midwood section of Brooklyn.

They spray-painted swastikas and anti-Semitic graffiti, removed the congregation's Torahs from the ark and set them on fire.

Franceschi's 11-year-old companion was not identified because of his age. His case will be heard in Family Court.

If found guilty of the burglary charge, Franceschi could be sentenced to between 28 months and seven years in prison.

Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman, who announced the indictment, warned that "crimes of hatred or bigotry of any kind must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."