

U.S. URGES TRAVELERS TO ISRAEL TO GET VACCINATED AGAINST POLIOBy L.E. Scott
Jewish Exponent

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- People should take a dose of the polio vaccine before they go to Israel, says the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

A CDC advisory recommending the vaccine will soon be sent to health departments, private physicians and travel agents, Jim Mize, a public health adviser at the CDC, said last week.

"We strongly advise a traveler getting the vaccine at this time," Mize said. "As of this morning, Israel has 16 cases diagnosed."

As a result of the CDC recommendation, the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia has recommended that mission participants get boosters before they travel. Federation received a reminder of the CDC position from the United Jewish Appeal in New York.

In New York, UJA's director of public relations, Gerald Nagel, said, "We strongly support travel to Israel. Our policy in this matter was to adhere to the advice of the CDC in Atlanta, and we passed along their advice to federations throughout the United States."

'No Reason At All For Panic'

"Most people in the United States received polio shots or oral vaccine on sugar cubes as children, but now if they're going to be in one of the countries with polio, which includes Israel, they should receive a single polio booster," explained Mize of the CDC.

Eleven of the cases in Israel have been diagnosed in Hadera, 38 miles northeast of Tel Aviv, he said. The polio virus has been found in sewage in the areas of Acre, Rehovot, Hadera, Lod and Ramla.

In Jerusalem, the Health Ministry announced that Israel's entire population up to age 40 will be reinoculated against polio by the end of the October.

The nationwide immunization campaign began Sunday with the vaccination of newborn babies and toddlers at 1,000 Tipat Halav clinics.

But Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino said, "There is no reason at all for panic," adding that the vaccinations are a "precautionary measure."

The Salk vaccine, containing dead virus, is administered by injection. The Sabin vaccine, which consists of live but weakened virus, is taken orally.

Mize said his agency has recommended since 1982 that travelers be inoculated if they are going to any country that has cases of polio. That would include all nations except Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Japan and those in Eastern and Western Europe.

The CDC is sending out the advisory, Mize said, because of a lack of general knowledge about the need for polio vaccination for travelers. "We think attention ought to be called to what we've been recommending for several years."

"The risk of going to Israel is no greater than that in developing countries in Africa or South America," he said.

ISRAELI ELECTION CAMPAIGN MARR'D BY VIOLENCE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- In what was yet another example of the rowdy behavior that has heated up -- and many say disgraced -- Israel's fiercely fought election campaign, a stone was bounced off the roof of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' limousine when the Labor Party leader drove into Kiryat Gat for a campaign speech Tuesday night.

It hurt no one and caused no damage beyond scratching the vinyl top.

Local police said Wednesday that they had a suspect in custody, whom they described as a former mental patient.

Peres acted as if nothing untoward occurred, and his appearance in Kiryat Gat was without incident.

He was careful later to distinguish this particular stone-throwing from the violence that has dogged the election campaign to date. Labor claims to be the principal victim.

The entire political community is tense over Labor-Likud recriminations on this issue, but in fact, most of the violent demonstrations in recent days have been aimed against Peres.

Justice Eliezer Goldberg, chairman of the Central Election Committee, has been trying to enforce a code of conduct.

Labor Knesset member Haim Ramon complained bitterly to the committee.

Likud's Dan Meridor vigorously denied his party organized, instigated or even tacitly approved anti-Peres riots in Beit Shemesh and Ramla this past weekend.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir also spoke out against campaign violence in speeches Monday and Tuesday. But the Likud leader contended that Peres "can hardly expect to be loved and carried aloft... since he was the enemy of unity."

Other Likud figures have suggested in media interviews that the Labor Party deliberately provoked violent incidents to win the sympathy of undecided voters.

Two rowdy demonstrators arrested at a Peres rally in the pro-Likud Tel Aviv suburb of Kfar Shalem Monday night were identified by police as Likud activists. No charges were pressed and the two were released.

Violence Between Religious Parties

Meanwhile, violence has flared between two religious parties vying for the ultra-Orthodox vote, the Agudat Yisrael and the new breakaway Degel Ha-Torah.

Degel Ha-Torah leaders vigorously deny their people were responsible for the daubing of unflattering graffiti on the Jerusalem home of the Hasidic rebbe of Gur, head of the Aguda's Council of Torah Sages.

Degel Ha-Torah's chief sage is the elderly Rabbi Eliezer Schach, head of the Ponevezh Yeshiva in Bnei Brak.

At a mass rally in Jerusalem Monday night, he spoke briefly against election violence. But most of his speech was devoted to blasting the Chabad Hasidic movement and branding its leader, the New York-based Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem

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Schneerson, a heretic.

Schach's unremitting hostility toward the Chabad caused the split in the Aguda party.

Meanwhile, the Central Election Committee decided by majority vote Monday not to disqualify any party lists from the Nov. 1 ballots.

It acted after several leftist factions sued to bar the far right-wing Moledet, Tsomet and Tchiya parties from the elections.

However, the committee's ban on Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach party still stands. It was approved by large majorities last week on grounds that Kach is racist and anti-democratic.

On the other hand, the election committee narrowly upheld the right of the left-wing pro-Palestinian Progressive List for Peace to run in the elections.

Both decisions are being appealed to the High Court, by Kahane in his case, and by right-wing parties trying to get the Progressive List off the ballot.

The High Court was to decide by Wednesday, when election lists must be closed by law.

RIOTING BREAKS OUT IN DEHAISHE; DRIVE MOUNTS TO REOPEN SCHOOLS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- Rioting broke out Tuesday in the Dehaishe refugee camp south of Bethlehem. At least one person was wounded and the army clamped a curfew on the camp.

The incident ended a period of relative quiet around the camp and stirred passions in the Bethlehem area. The disturbances were attributed to news that a camp resident died of wounds suffered two weeks ago in a clash with Israeli troops.

Dehaishe has been one of the worst trouble spots in the West Bank. Located on the Jerusalem-Hebron highway, it is where local youths hurl stones at passing vehicles, most of them owned by Jewish settlers.

The Israel Defense Force has blocked the camp entrance and erected a huge fence around its perimeter to prevent rock-throwing. The camp is under constant surveillance. Heavily armed troops patrol its streets and the surrounding area.

Palestinian nationalist circles, meanwhile, have stepped up a campaign to force the Israeli authorities to reopen schools they recently shut down in the territory. They have the support of the teachers union of the Histadrut labor federation.

Union representatives met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday to try to persuade him to reopen the Arab schools.

Most grade schools, and high schools in the West Bank were ordered closed indefinitely because they were allegedly used as bases for organized disturbances.

The nationalists accused the Israelis of keeping the schools closed in order "to raise a generation of young ignorant Palestinians."

Leaflet No. 27 of the Palestinian underground command, which was distributed over the weekend, urged international intervention to end the school closures and called for sit-down strikes to protest Israel's "policy of ignorance."

Leaflet No. 27 is the same one that urged the Palestine National Council to declare an independent state in the administered territories.

It called on Palestinian educators to draft a program for alternative "popular education" in towns, villages and refugee camps. That had been

the function of the local popular committees recently outlawed by Israel on grounds that they were extensions of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Israeli civil administration in the territories announced, meanwhile, it would pay Palestinian teachers a half month's salary even though it considers them to be on leave without pay.

PALESTINIAN DOCTOR CHARGES ISRAEL USES TOXIC GAS By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- A prominent Palestinian doctor from the West Bank charged here Tuesday that Israel uses toxic gas to quell the demonstrations in the territories, and that as a result, more than 800 pregnant Palestinian women had lost their fetuses over the last 10 months.

Dr. Muhammad Jadalla, chairman of the Union of the Health Committees in the West Bank and Gaza, told a news conference here that Israel's security forces are using a toxic tear gas known as CNNCS.

Ambassador Johanan Bein of Israel called Jadalla's accusation a "blatant lie."

"Israel never used toxic gas against demonstrators in the territories," Bein said. "Israel only uses tear gas to disperse demonstrations, as used by all civilized countries."

Jadalla contended that as a result of the "intifada," there is an "emergency situation" in the territories as far as health-care services in the region are concerned.

He said that there are only two general hospitals in the West Bank available to treat the daily casualties in clashes between rioting Palestinians and Israeli troops.

Jadalla also made the following claims:

- * There is an average of 30 Palestinian casualties every day.

- * There are only 12 ambulances serving more than 1.5 million Palestinians in the territories.

- * About 60 Palestinian children, who were hit by rubber bullets used by Israeli troops, have lost one eye. Three Palestinian children in the territories lost both eyes.

Jadalla claimed that in recent weeks, Israel has been using harsher, "more brutal" measures in an effort to stop the uprising.

He said that Israeli troops now use three types of bullet against the demonstrators: rubber, plastic and metal.

Jadalla, who is in the United States at the invitation of the Palestine Aid Society in America, said he met with many officials of non-governmental organizations in the United States and discussed with them "the very grave situation" of the medical services in the West Bank and Gaza.

PEKING OPERA COMING TO ISRAEL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- The centuries-old Peking Opera will perform in Israel next May.

The famous Chinese company signed a contract in Belgium Sunday with Bidur La'am, the Israeli impresarios who are promoting the one-week tour.

Details will be worked out when its representatives visit Peking in December. The 30-member Chinese troupe appeared at the Edinburgh Festival this year and had performed in the United States in 1987.

COUNTY PARTY CHAIRMAN APOLOGIZES FOR ANTI-SEMITIC LETTER TO VOTERS

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- The newly elected chairman of Long Island's Suffolk County Conservative Party apologized, but did not take responsibility, for a letter sent to voters urging them not to support two Jewish candidates for judgeships.

The chairman, Pasquale Curcio, and his vice chairman, John Andrew Kay, instead accused a former party chairwoman and political rival, Elaine Leirer, of writing the letter.

Leirer denied the charges, and accused Curcio and Kay of trying to discredit her.

Curcio offered his apology after demands by the American Jewish Congress that his party disavow a letter sent to at least a dozen party members before the September primary.

The letter was sent on plain stationery reading "Official Announcement from the Chairwoman."

It urged members not to vote for David Freundlich and Morton Weissman, candidates for, respectively, Family and County Court judgeships, because they are Jewish.

"Do not let the Jews run Suffolk County," the letter read. "Stay with the chairwoman. Reject Jew lovers Curcio and Kay."

The letter also attacked a Jewish town supervisor and town attorney.

Both Freundlich and Weissman won the primary.

Curcio said the letter "turns my stomach."

"The Conservative Party is not anti-Semitic and we had nothing to do with that," he continued.

William Rapfogel, executive director of the Metropolitan Region of AJCongress, called the letter "criminal" and "morally repugnant."

Rapfogel said the organization will meet with the Suffolk County district attorney to help in investigating the letter.

Dirty Politics In Florida

The Suffolk case echoed another that took place in August in Florida's Sarasota County.

In that incident, nine candidates for various county offices signed a pledge acknowledging belief in "the supremacy of Jesus Christ" as a criterion for holding public office.

The signings took place at a forum conducted by "We the People," a one-man organization in Venice, Fla.

The organization's leader, Scott Carter, claims that the Constitution is a Christian document and that the principle of separation of church and state is a myth.

Angry protests by various interreligious and intergroup organizations, including the Sarasota-Tampa chapter of the American Jewish Committee, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the Interfaith-Interracial Council and the Sarasota Ministerial Council, led eight of the candidates to withdraw their signatures from the document.

One of those candidates, Bob Anderson, was elected to county commissioner.

However, in a separate campaign by "We the People," at least 70 people have signed a similar declaration pledging to run for local precinct chairmen, in order to form a majority in the Republican Executive Committee in Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

AJCommittee said it will closely monitor those elections.

BOMB THREAT, BUT BRISK BUSINESS FOR ISRAEL, AT FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- A bomb threat sent police reinforcements rushing to the Israel pavilion at the Frankfurt Book Fair on Monday. But business continued as usual during the final day of the fair.

The extra police protection did not put off potential customers, according to Menachem Biale, an Israeli official in charge of the pavilion.

In fact, said Biale, who works for Israel's Commerce and Industry Ministry, the 27 Israeli publishers displaying their wares have gotten high marks for their competitive products.

Many of the books deal with biblical or other traditional Jewish themes. The publishers said business was brisk, but cautioned that until deals are finalized -- a matter of several months -- the pavilion's commercial success cannot be assessed.

The Frankfurt Book Fair is the world's largest, according to organizers. Participation is a "must" for any publisher who hopes to do business on an international scale. This year, 7,965 publishers from 95 countries put 340,000 titles on display. Of that number 102,860 are new works.

DUTCH JEWRY DIVIDED OVER 19TH-CENTURY SHUL

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- The 135-year-old synagogue in the village of Meerssen, which was converted to prosaic uses after the Nazis decimated its congregation, is once more functioning as a house of worship and a "house of learning."

It has also become a point of contention between the Orthodox and Liberal (Reform) Jewish communities in Holland.

On Oct. 1, the first Bar Mitzvah in 75 years was celebrated there. Last Friday, the synagogue was formally dedicated as a "House of Learning," where Christians and occasionally Jews study the Jewish roots of the New Testament.

Meerssen is located near Maastricht in southeastern Netherlands. Some years ago, its mayor organized a committee to restore the building, which was gutted by fire in 1959.

Money raised in subsidies from government and private donors helped restore the building, but furnishings and Torahs are still lacking.

That did not prevent a British couple living in Holland from celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of their twin sons, Scott and Lee Collins, at the Meerssen shul. The Collins belong to the Liberal Jewish congregation in the neighboring province of Brabant.

A Liberal rabbi, David Lilienthal of Amsterdam, officiated. That drew a protest from the Orthodox rabbi of the Utrecht district, which includes southern Limburg.

He objected because the Meerssen synagogue was originally Orthodox. He accused Rabbi Lilienthal of violating the Sabbath by driving to the service and desecrating the Torah by transporting it by car on the Sabbath.

The Meerssen synagogue seems likely to survive these contrectemps. It was founded in 1853 when 1,340 Jewish families lived in Meerssen, a large number for so small a town.

The reason was that neighboring Maastricht forbade Jews to live there.

**DISABLED ISRAELI ATHLETES
EMBARK FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- Geulah Siri was three months old in 1949 when her family arrived in Israel from Yemen. Within a few weeks, she had contracted polio, which left her with a permanently stiffened left leg.

Today, Siri is a triathlete about to compete in her sixth Special Olympics and a past winner of multiple gold medals.

She was one of 62 disabled Israeli athletes who stopped off in New York this week, en route to Seoul, South Korea, where the Special Olympics begin Oct. 16.

Siri was eager to get there to show her stuff in the discus, javelin and shot put. All 89 pounds of her quivered with excitement as she talked about her sports this week at a midtown Manhattan hotel.

The unusual stopover is necessary for the Israelis. There is no direct airline to Korea from Israel, or any point nearby, so the Olympic competitors are forced to fly from Tel Aviv to New York, and then fly again for 18 hours to reach Korea.

The athletes and their 18 coaches and directors didn't appear at all daunted, as they wolfed down fish and vegetables in a dining room whose wall of windows showed them a dollop of the Manhattan skyline.

The New York stop was made quite homelike by directors of two American organizations that host and help the Israeli disabled reach their highest potential: Friends of the Israel Sports Center for the Disabled, and Friends of the Disabled War Veterans.

Both have contributed funds to allow the Israelis to participate in the Special Olympics.

As Siri attests, not all Israeli disabled are war veterans. Some of the athletes had lost feet by exploding mines in army exercises. Others had cerebral palsy, several had polio.

Classes Of Competition

The athletes compete in several classes, including the wheelchair-bound, the amputee and those who can stand.

Yosef Luttenberg, a droll man with a twinkle in his eyes and a smile, is national chairman of the Israeli Disabled Veterans Organization.

Wearing a maroon tie emblazoned with the Israeli Disabled Veterans symbol -- a wheelchair athlete inseparable from a Star of David--Luttenberg explained that every summer groups throughout the United States host Israeli disabled veterans.

Luttenberg is director of the Sports Rehabilitation Center for the Disabled Veterans and Their Families. The center visits hospitals for recruits. "We bring them straight from the hospital to the sports stadium. It's the best thing for them."

Reuven Heller, director of sports for the Israel Sports Center for the Disabled, explained how favorably the one-legged competitor in the butterfly competed with an able-bodied swimmer.

In the same competition, the one-legged swimmer achieved a record in one minute, three seconds, the able-bodied swimmer in 50 seconds. The disabled competitors, Heller underscored, "are very highly skilled."

The Israeli athletes range in age from 20 to 44. The criteria on which they were chosen to

compete were first, second or third placement in world standing in their sport.

Their sports vary widely, including wheelchair basketball, swimming, track and field, target shooting, weight lifting and goal ball for the blind.

Among the group are nine women who have 26 children between them and an incredible drive to compete.

Lifelong Athletes

Some of the athletes were competitive before they lost limbs, and simply continued.

Miri Siso, a victim of cerebral palsy since the age of six, has been swimming her whole life. She participated in the Special Olympics in Long Island, New York in 1984.

Ruth Kedar, who was paralyzed in her legs in the Six-Day War, began shooting targets 14 years ago from her wheelchair.

Last year, she won the silver medal in the international competition in England. She has three children, all sports-minded, all of whose names mean some kind of ocean wave.

Asher Doron, who also lost his foot in an army exercise, is the world's top disabled shooter.

Now en route to his second Special Olympics, he placed second at Long Island four years ago, but achieved first place last year in Holland in the world championship on the air rifle.

Assaf Agmon, a mechanical engineer, has been paralyzed in both legs since being injured in the Suez in 1970.

Now, he's heading for his fifth Special Olympics as a champion swimmer. "Sports makes me stronger. It makes life easier for me," he said with a big grin.

**AMERICAN BANK SEEKING
LIQUIDATION OF KOOR**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 10 (JTA) -- A major American bank applied to a Tel Aviv district court Sunday to place the giant Histadrut-owned Koor Industries in liquidation to satisfy a \$20 million unpaid debt.

The action by Bankers Trust Co. of New York, Koor's largest foreign creditor, sent shock waves through the business and financial community here.

The collapse of an industrial complex that employs some 27,000 workers and accounts for more than 10 percent of Israel's gross national product could throw the country into an economic and political turmoil, three weeks before the voters go to the polls to elect a new Knesset.

As Israeli officials appealed to Bankers Trust to withdraw its petition, Likud, its eyes focused on the Nov. 1 balloting, began a propaganda campaign contrasting its "free enterprise" politics with the Labor Party's "Socialism."

Labor is, in fact, vulnerable. It is the dominant party in Histadrut, Israel's all-embracing trade union federation, and many Histadrut enterprises have fallen into economic difficulties this year.

Likud is able to get its message across without mentioning the many private firms that have gone bankrupt in the same period.

The drama began last week when Bankers Trust demanded immediate repayment of the \$20 million loan it made to a Koor subsidiary in New York. The debt, guaranteed by Koor in Tel Aviv, came due between Sept. 19 and Oct. 3.