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**COURT RULING DISQUALIFYING
KAHANE SEEN AS BOON TO LIKUD**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc appears to be the chief beneficiary of a decision by Israel's highest court Tuesday to disqualify Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach party from running in the Nov. 1 Knesset elections.

A five-judge panel of the High Court of Justice decided unanimously Tuesday to reject Kahane's appeal of a ban imposed on his party Oct. 6 by the Central Election Committee.

At the same time, the court ruled by a 3-2 majority that the predominantly Arab Progressive List for Peace, which supports a Palestinian state, may participate in the elections.

The effects of these decisions on the outcome of the elections is a matter of speculation. But political pundits have already suggested that Likud, rather than the Labor Party, will benefit.

In the Kach case, a panel headed by the court's president, Justice Meir Shamgar, affirmed a finding by the Central Election Committee that the Kach party is racist and opposed to the democratic nature of the state. Such parties are disqualified from running in elections, under an amendment to the Basic Law.

The amendment was not in force when Kahane was elected to the Knesset in 1984. He now holds the Kach movement's only seat in the 120-member legislative body, but his party was expected to win additional seats in the Nov. 1 elections.

Charges of racism against the Kach party are based on its platform, which among other things calls for the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the administered territories. The party would also deny Israeli Arabs the right to vote and would favor criminal penalties against Jews who marry or have sexual relations with Arabs.

The legal process against Kach was initiated in the Central Election Committee by Labor, Likud and the smaller parties represented on the committee. The committee is chaired by Eliezer Goldberg, himself a High Court justice.

The effort to ban the Progressive List was undertaken by Likud, the ultranationalist Tehiya party and other right-wing factions.

They cited the party's support of Palestinian nationalism and its alleged links to the Palestine Liberation Organization. The amendment to the Basic Law disqualifies parties that reject the notion of Israel as the state of the Jewish people.

Split On Progressive List

The narrow margin by which the Progressive List was approved to run in the elections indicated serious reservations among the justices.

The majority opinion seemed to say, however, that as long as the leftist party complies with the law, to ban it because its program is abhorred by many would be undemocratic.

At first glance, both court decisions seemed to have been a blow to the political right.

But political analysts who watch the opinion polls believe that with the elimination of Kach, its supporters will drift back to Likud from whence many of them originally came.

The latest polls indicate that Kach would have won about 100,000 votes in the upcoming elections. They translate to three or four Knesset seats, which could spell victory for Likud in a close race.

On the other hand, the Progressive List's inclusion on the ballot is likely to deprive Labor of Arab votes.

Kahane To Continue Crusade

Israel's 750,000 Arab citizens are more politically aware than ever. Although many are Palestinian nationalists, there is strong sentiment among them to work within the Israeli system to further their cause.

According to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, chairman of the Labor Party and its choice for prime minister, Israeli Arabs have the potential of holding as many as 16 Knesset seats.

Only this week, Peres urged Israeli Arabs not to fritter away their votes on the Communist Party or on the Progressive List, which have no standing in the political establishment.

His appeal was calculated to attract Arab votes to the major parties, knowing they would choose Labor over the hard-line Likud bloc.

Meanwhile, Kahane vowed Tuesday that he would continue his largely anti-Arab crusade by mass rallies and other non-parliamentary means. He predicted the day would come when the Israeli people would turn to him.

His supporters sang and danced outside the High Court building. Some wept, however, and ripped their clothes in a ritual sign of mourning.

But the Israeli public in general seemed delighted that the parliament will be rid of a faction that has at times been an international embarrassment to Israel.

Leaders of Labor, Likud and most of the smaller parties immediately welcome the decision, though the right-wing Tsomet and Molechet parties expressed reservations.

In New York Tuesday, Burton Levinson, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and Abraham Foxman, its national director, called the ruling "a blow against racism and a triumph for democracy and decency in Israel."

They added that while Kahane still has a right to voice his opinions, "the decision puts beyond the political process an organization whose aims and actions the court described as racist and reminiscent of the worst acts against the Jewish people."

**ISRAEL SCORES VICTORY AT U.N.
IN DEFEAT OF ARAB RESOLUTION
By Yitzhak Rabi**

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Israel scored a resounding diplomatic victory here Tuesday when the Arab group of nations failed for the seventh successive year to oust the Jewish state from the U.N. General Assembly.

An Arab motion to deny Israel's credentials to the 43rd General Assembly was blocked by a vote of 95-41, with seven abstentions. It was one of the largest margins since the Arabs first attempted the maneuver in 1982.

The Arab move was defeated following a

counter-motion by Norway not to consider the Arab amendment at all.

Israel's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Johanan Bein, hailed the outcome as an indication of Israel's rising esteem in the world community.

The vote to block the Arab challenge was backed by 15 more countries than last year, when a similar Arab measure was defeated by a vote of 83-39, with 10 abstentions.

It was a "great victory for Israel," Bein told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency right after the vote.

Clearly elated by the outcome, Bein said it was "a direct result of Israel's developing relationship with the countries of the world."

He attributed the outcome to the efforts of the staff of Israel's U.N. Mission, adding, "It turns out that Israel's standing in the world, despite the events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is not only not diminishing but in fact, when it comes to meaningful decisions, Israel's standing is clearly on the rise."

Bein noted that the increase of the vote supporting Israel from 80 to 95 "is not incidental, and it has a meaningful implication for Israel's real status in the world community."

Immediately after the vote, Vernon Walters, the American ambassador, and his deputy, Herbert Okun, went over to the Israeli delegation to offer congratulations.

They shook hands warmly with Bein and the other delegates. Diplomatic sources disclosed that the United States had lobbied intensively behind the scenes on behalf of Israel during the weeks before the vote.

An analysis of the results showed that only two new countries, Jordan and Niger, joined the Arab ranks this year. Neither had participated in the vote a year ago.

Soviet Vote Disappointing

The African states voted 24-11 in support of Israel, a major shift in sentiment since last year.

Egypt, the only Arab state that has diplomatic relations with Israel, remained steadfast in its support of Israel on the credentials issue.

Israel was supported by the entire Western bloc and 31 Latin and Caribbean countries, the notable exception being Cuba, which backed the Arabs.

There was also a change of mood among the Communist bloc countries of Eastern Europe, though not the Soviet Union.

Hungary actually voted against the Arabs, whereas last year it did not participate.

East Germany, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Poland, once supporters of the Arabs, absented themselves from the voting. So did Albania, a Communist country outside the Eastern bloc.

The People's Republic of China abstained, as it did last year. But Israel's biggest disappointment was the Soviet Union's continued support of the Arab efforts to deny its credentials.

Israeli diplomats had been urging the Soviet representatives to cast a negative vote on the Arab motion. They were told, however, that a change of the Soviet voting pattern would come about only with the convening of an international conference for Middle East peace.

The motion to single Israel out from among the 123 countries whose credentials were up for General Assembly approval was introduced as an amendment by the Yemen Democratic Republic (South Yemen). It was never voted on.

BUSH MEETS WITH JEWS OF SKOKIE AND VISITS HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL By Jeff Weintraub

SKOKIE, Ill., Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Vice President George Bush met with local Jewish leaders in the Village Hall here Tuesday and visited a memorial to Holocaust victims.

He cited his commitment to Israel and assured a crowd of Jewish supporters that "we shall never forget" the horrors of the Nazi rule in Europe.

According to a Bush presidential campaign spokesman, this was the vice president's first address to a Jewish audience since his Sept. 7 appearance at a B'nai B'rith International convention in Baltimore.

Just a day after that appearance, reports surfaced that several of Bush's campaign workers had expressed anti-Semitic and Holocaust-revisionist views.

Those workers, including Fred Malek, who compiled a list of Jews in the Labor Department for President Nixon, have been dismissed from the campaign or positions in groups associated with the Republican Party.

A heavy rain here delayed and cut short Bush's appearance at the Holocaust memorial. But the vice president had time enough to say, "I have the honor of standing with some of the survivors, saying, we shall never forget, we shall keep the strategic relationship (with Israel) strong, we are committed to human rights around the world."

No Mention Of ACLU

Bush did not reiterate his familiar campaign criticism that Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, though there were reports that his rain-shortened speech contained remarks about the civil rights group.

The ACLU defended the right of neo-Nazis to march through Skokie nine years ago, an event that jolted this community, where an estimated 5,000 Holocaust survivors and their relatives live.

Nearly 150 people were reported to have attended Bush's address at the Skokie Village Hall, where, according to Erna Gans, he spoke again of Israel's strategic importance to the United States.

Gans, a Holocaust survivor from Poland, is president of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois.

Among those invited to the event were local rabbis, Jewish leaders, Holocaust survivors and such Illinois Republican leaders as Gov. James Thompson and U.S. Reps. Lynn Martin and John Porter.

A spokeswoman from the Holocaust Memorial Foundation, which maintains the monument, noted that the Bush campaign arranged the event and that it was not part of any activities previously planned by the foundation.

Skokie police stepped up their usual surveillance of the Holocaust memorial over the weekend, in anticipation of Bush's appearance.

Within hours after its dedication last year, vandals defaced the monument with spray-painted Nazi swastikas. Since then, the Village of Skokie has maintained a video camera that monitors the monument around the clock.

Earlier this fall, Kitty Dukakis, the wife of the Democratic presidential nominee, visited the Skokie memorial.

AGENCIES CALL FOR NEW PROCEDURE TO CONSULT WITH AIPAC ON POLICY

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Leaders of three major Jewish organizations refuted accounts Tuesday that they have established a new "joint political committee" to rival the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

But they acknowledged that they have asked for a new procedure that will ensure that the pro-Israel lobbying group's policy line is "consistent with the rest of the organized American Jewish community."

"The notion that we are setting up some alternative structure is completely inaccurate," said Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress.

He described instead a new procedure whereby AIPAC will consult with the Washington representatives of AJCongress, the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith before it acts on critical issues.

"That doesn't exist now," said Siegman of the consulting procedure, which the four organizations will discuss at a meeting next week.

Dissent On Arms Sale, PLO

Siegman and his counterparts at AJCommittee and ADL responded Tuesday to a front-page report in The New York Times that the three groups had criticized AIPAC in a private letter sent a few weeks ago and leaked to the newspaper.

In the letter, whose contents were confirmed by the signators, the leaders complained that AIPAC had acted out of step "with the consensus of the organized Jewish community" on a number of recent issues.

The letter cited the organizations' disagreement with AIPAC's decision to fight a major arms sale to Kuwait and its efforts to encourage the government to shut down the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission to the United Nations in New York.

In addition, the three groups disagreed with AIPAC's recent efforts to prevent PLO leader Yasir Arafat from receiving a visa for his planned visit to the United Nations, which may occur next month.

In telephone interviews, leaders of the Jewish groups acknowledged those criticisms.

But they took exception to the Times' interpretation that their differences with AIPAC represent a reaction against what the paper characterized as AIPAC's "hard-line" policies.

Not Being Competitive

"That's not what the initiative is about at all," said Ira Silverman, AJCommittee executive vice president. Silverman said that in the past the three groups have taken stands that were more "hard-line" than AIPAC, including opposition to the Reagan administration's 1982 Middle East peace initiative that was endorsed by AIPAC.

The three New York-based groups have not spoken with one voice on recent Israeli policy. AJCongress has been the most vocal of major American Jewish organizations in criticizing Israeli policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. ADL, by contrast, has gone on record urging organizations to avoid public criticism and dissent.

Said Silverman: "It is not our intention to be competitive or negative (with AIPAC). We want to forge a new cooperative relationship that will

be more consultative. We were not happy with the level of cooperation previously."

Abraham Foxman, ADL national director, said that a new procedure will mean that the organizations will no longer have to wait for AIPAC to convene before discussing policy issues.

"If they don't call us, we'll call each other and call them," said Foxman. "In the future, if there is a disagreement, they will convince us, or we will convince them."

And if neither side is convinced? Said Foxman: "There will be a time when we disagree, and we will go our own way."

Foxman, Silverman and Siegman said they did not know how the Times received a copy of the confidential letter. Foxman denied any connection between the letter and an upcoming segment on "60 Minutes" said to include criticism of AIPAC.

Senior AIPAC officials, including executive director Thomas Dine, were unavailable for comment Tuesday on the Times story. But a spokesperson said that AIPAC has an ongoing relationship with the other Jewish groups and "isn't suggesting that we don't want more."

The spokesperson said AIPAC's views are accurately presented in the Times article, where AIPAC denies it is out of step with American Jews and says the other groups are already represented on AIPAC's 150-member executive committee, which meets four times a year.

Against Second Lobby

A senior AIPAC officer told the Times: "More consultation is always desirable, but the establishment of a second lobbying entity would undermine the effectiveness of the pro-Israel community in presenting its case to Washington and elsewhere."

Reaction by other Jewish leaders Tuesday to the disclosure of the letter was mixed.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said the letter does not represent a division in terms of support for Israel.

"What they are talking about is improving the machinery of support," he said.

Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, said the letter involves a difference over techniques, not policy, and "does not reflect any diminution of Jewish community support for Israel."

A senior official in the other major Jewish umbrella organization feels the current debate reflects a feeling that in terms of the American Jewish political agenda on Israel, "decision-making is taking place on too narrow a base."

But Dr. Lawrence Rubin, assistant executive vice chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said he does not fault AIPAC, which he described as doing a "spectacular job."

He also said he feels NJCRAC could play an important role in coordinating the effort to broaden the policy-making base.

The president of a major Zionist organization expressed concern about the three groups' criticism of AIPAC, which he said "can do severe damage to the State of Israel."

Milton Shapiro, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said, "This is the most serious signal that a tendency to 'disassociate' from Israel has taken on major proportions which may lead to the undermining of the support Israel has depended upon."

EAST GERMANY HAS AGREED TO PAY REPARATIONS, BRONFMAN REPORTS

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- The German Democratic Republic is prepared to pay a "symbolic sum" of reparations to the Jewish survivors of the Holocaust, World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman announced at an East Berlin news conference Tuesday.

Bronfman, who met with the GDR leader Erich Honecker in East Berlin Monday, mentioned no sum.

Bronfman said the details would be worked out between the East German government and the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

It will be the first time East Germany, a Communist bloc country, acknowledges an obligation to Jewish survivors. West Germany did so in 1952, when it negotiated reparations agreements during the administration of Konrad Adenauer, the first post-war chancellor.

The West German government has paid about \$45 billion -- in today's rate of exchange -- in reparation to Jewish victims of the Holocaust and to the State of Israel.

One of East Germany's conditions is that the reparations it pays will not go to Jews living in West Germany, but rather to institutions and individuals in the United States, Israel and other countries.

Bronfman, who praised Honecker for his sympathy toward the Jews, said he was convinced that East Germany is trying to preserve the memory of the Jewish communities that existed before World War II, and is committed to the survival of the tiny Jewish community which lives there now.

High-Level Meetings

In addition to his hour-long conversation with Honecker, Bronfman met with Kurt Loeffler, a vice minister for religious affairs, who is believed to deal directly with the reparations issue.

He also met with Foreign Minister Oskar Fisher, the top official responsible for foreign trade.

The meetings have added credence to recent reports that East Germany is seeking the aid of the World Jewish Congress to help improve its trade relations with the United States.

East Germany would like to receive most-favored-nation trade status, and seeks an invitation for Honecker to visit Washington, which would enhance East Germany's prestige in the West.

Bronfman told the news conference he saw no reason why Honecker should not be received as a guest in Washington. He supported better trade relations between the two countries.

According to Bronfman, Honecker clearly supports Israel's right to exist and believes an international conference is the best way to Middle East peace.

East Germany and Israel could very well establish diplomatic relations in the foreseeable future, though they have never been "on speaking terms," Bronfman said.

East Germany's hostility toward Israel has been manifested by biased reporting and anti-Semitic cartoons in the state-controlled press.

But on Monday, the newspapers carried warm reports of Bronfman's visit and praised the Jewish leader as a man of peace and friendship.

TWO ARAB YOUTHS KILLED IN NABLUS; U.S. JOURNALIST WOUNDED BY IDF
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Rioting in the West Bank Arab city of Nablus on Tuesday took the lives of a 5-year-old boy and a 15-year-old youth.

Three other local residents were wounded in clashes with Israeli security forces. An American free-lance journalist, Neil Cassidy, 37, of Oakland, Calif., was slightly injured.

He was struck in the knee by a plastic bullet, apparently fired by an Israel Defense Force soldier at the entrance to the casbah.

The death of the 5-year-old is being investigated. The circumstances in which he and the teen-ager were killed are unclear, military sources said.

According to the sources, the two were victims of "a chain of riots" that broke out shortly after Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin visited Nablus, the largest Arab town in the West Bank.

The soldiers opened fire when they were attacked with stones, iron bars and other heavy objects, the sources said. They added that often young children join in violent demonstrations.

Cassidy said he was standing behind a group of local youths when the plastic bullet hit him. Arabs helped him to the local Ittihad hospital.

The IDF blamed the journalist for his injury. A spokesman said he was in a closed military area and should have expected danger.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department said Tuesday it was "deeply concerned" about the shooting of the American journalist. Spokesman Charles Redman said, "We are asking Israeli authorities to expedite arrangements" so that Cassidy "receives medical care at a suitable facility."

Cassidy is both a writer and photographer. His work has appeared in Impact Visuals, a magazine published in Brooklyn, and in the bi-weekly Frontline, published in Oakland.

FRENCH TELL HERZOG THAT ISRAEL MUST NEGOTIATE WITH PALESTINIANS
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog of Israel, on a five-day state visit to France, was left in little doubt this week where French political opinion stands with respect to the Middle East conflict.

Both President Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist chief of state, and former Premier Jacques Chirac of the Gaullist center-right made clear that they expect Israel to be more forthcoming toward the Palestinians.

Mitterrand, speaking Monday night at a banquet he gave in Herzog's honor at the Elysee Palace, urged an international conference for Middle East peace with the participation of "all concerned parties."

He noted that while France recognizes Israel's security needs, it also takes cognizance that "the Palestinians are forbidden from having a country of their own."

Chirac, who addressed a reception for Herzog Tuesday at City Hall, asked, "Can the Jewish people remain faithful to the message it gave the world if the Palestinian people is prevented from choosing its own destiny and is deprived of a country?"