

VOL. 66 - 71st YEAR

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1988

NO. 197

**THREE ISRAELIS REPORTED DEAD,  
MORE INJURED IN JERICHO ATTACK**

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Three Israelis were killed and at least five were wounded Sunday in a firebomb attack on a passenger bus in the West Bank town of Jericho, according to late reports here and abroad.

By midnight local time, military authorities had not released information about the identities of the victims.

But according to news reports in London, the dead included two babies and a mother. The wounded were flown by helicopter to hospitals in the Jerusalem area.

Five Molotov cocktails were thrown at the bus, which was completely gutted. The bus, which was en route from Tiberias to Jerusalem, was only half full at the time of the firebombing.

The attack appears to be the worst on Israeli civilians in the administered territories since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising there more than 10 months ago.

Earlier Sunday, a Palestinian youth was killed by Israeli security forces during violent disturbances in the Arab-Christian village of Beit Sahur, near Bethlehem.

At least 10 other Palestinians were wounded in clashes elsewhere in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as tension gripped the territories in advance of the Israeli elections Tuesday.

Thirty-one Arab activists were arrested in the West Bank over the weekend, 11 of them journalists.

**Security Precautions Taken**

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Cabinet on Sunday that "very serious preparations" were being made to ensure quiet when Israeli settlers in the territories go to the polls.

The fatally wounded youth in Beit Sahur was identified as Ayyad Abu-Saade, 20, a resident of the village.

According to Israel Defense Force sources, soldiers came under a barrage of rocks after Sunday morning church services and were forced to open fire. Beit Sahur was placed under curfew.

The IDF said six other people were wounded in the Gaza Strip and five more in the West Bank. Arab sources put the number of wounded in Gaza at 12.

Meanwhile, tough security measures are being taken not only to make sure no trouble erupts on Election Day, but to keep the territories as calm as possible next month.

November contains several dates that are symbolic and highly provocative to Palestinians. One is Nov. 2, directly after the elections, which will be the 71st anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

Nov. 29 will be the 41st anniversary of the U.N. General Assembly's vote to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states.

Coming in between is the expected convening of the Palestine National Council, which is scheduled to meet Nov. 12 in Algiers. The body is expected to declare an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

(JTA correspondent Gil Sedan in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

**DUKAKIS CAMPAIGN ATTACKS LETTER  
TYING BUSH TO ARAB INTERESTS**

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Supporters of Michael Dukakis launched another salvo this weekend in a campaign for Jewish votes marked by both sides' efforts to link the other's candidate with assorted pro-Nazi or anti-Israel supporters within his party ranks.

The latest Democratic attacks follow news of a pro-George Bush mailing sent to Arab-Americans over the signature of former U.S. Rep. Paul Findlay (R-III).

Findlay's letter charges that the Democratic presidential nominee accepts "enormous financial support" from pro-Israel political action committees, and as a result would be "no more than Israel's errand boy."

The letter was included with a mailing from the Arab-American Republican Federation, an organization with no formal ties to the Republican Party.

The Bush campaign, claiming no involvement in the mailing, said the vice president therefore would not disavow it.

But of more concern to the four Democratic legislators and three Jewish Dukakis supporters who spoke at a news conference at Dukakis headquarters here Sunday is the nature of Bush's relationship with Findlay, as described in the letter.

Findlay was a vigorous opponent of the United States' ties with Israel before he lost his congressional seat in 1982.

According to the letter, a relationship between Findlay and Bush going back more than 20 years included "private conversations and correspondence on the Arab-Israeli dispute, several years ago."

**'Damage Israel's Lobby Causes'**

The letter states that as vice president and former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, "Bush has witnessed firsthand the frequent and substantial damage Israel's lobby causes to our national interests."

"You can count on him to assert effectively our own national interest when it diverges from Israel's," the letter said.

In a statement calling on Bush to repudiate the letter, Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) asked, "Who is the real George Bush? On one hand, he vigorously courts Jewish voters; on the other, he takes advice and has the support of individuals who oppose the United States-Israel alliance."

Joining Schumer at the news conference were Reps. Gary Ackerman and James Scheuer, both Democrats from New York, and Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.). All are running next week for re-election to Congress.

Also representing the Dukakis campaign were Hyman Bookbinder, Dukakis' special adviser on Middle East affairs; Howard Squadron, co-chair of the campaign's New York State Leadership Council and a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; and Rabbi Morris Schmidman, executive director of the Council of Jewish Organizations of the Borough Park section of Brooklyn.

## BUSH PLEDGES A STRONG ISRAEL AT WIESENTHAL CENTER APPEARANCE

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Vice President George Bush pledged his full support Thursday for a secure and economically strong Israel, freedom for Soviet refuseniks and relentless opposition to racial and religious bigotry.

Speaking to 400 people crammed into the outdoor memorial plaza of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the Republican candidate used the waning days of his presidential campaign to attract the votes of traditionally Democratic Jews in the key state of California.

"I make the solemn pledge that Israel will continue to survive, strong and secure," Bush assured his audience. "The United States will stand by Israel without wavering. Our economic partnership will be extended. Nothing will come between us."

He was equally emphatic in stating that "my party has shown on the record that it will condemn and oppose anti-Semitism in every manifestation, here and around the globe."

Preceding the talk, Bush received the customary tour of the Wiesenthal Center's Holocaust exhibit, guided by Rabbi Marvin Hier.

The vice president, holding his wife's hand, looked grave as he inspected prison uniforms and gas canisters used at Auschwitz, a memorial book with the names of murdered Hungarian Jews and an order signed by Josef Mengele authorizing atrocities against children.

### Dukakis Visit 'Fell Through'

He was also shown a display of current anti-Semitic books from Japan and a model of the center's planned Museum of Tolerance.

Television crews and still photographers jostled and pushed each other, a scene described by one reporter as "covering the Holocaust as a photo opportunity."

The well-managed, one-hour event was frequently interrupted by a vociferous group of Dukakis supporters outside the walled memorial plaza.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the center, was asked about the propriety of inviting only one of the contending presidential candidates less than two weeks before the election.

Cooper said both Dukakis and Bush had been invited as far back as last May, but that after months of negotiations a hoped-for Dukakis visit fell through.

## BALLOTING IN ISRAEL BEGINS FOR THOSE TO BE FAR FROM HOME

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Israeli voters who will be away from home during the Knesset elections Tuesday cast early ballots over the weekend.

They include soldiers on duty in southern Lebanon. Portable voting booths were trucked to forward positions by special army crews.

But the first Israelis to vote were merchant marines, who are relatively few in number but scattered all over the globe. Their ballots were being flown home in time for the vote count Tuesday evening.

There is no absentee ballot, however, for Israelis living abroad or visiting foreign countries on Election Day.

As the Central Election Committee began setting up its array of computers and communications equipment in the Knesset building in preparation for the vote count, the national police was bracing for Election Day violence.

There will be 4,840 polling stations. About 9,000 police officers have been deployed to keep the peace and ensure scrupulous observance of the law.

Police Commissioner David Kraus said Sunday his force would be particularly watchful in two sectors -- Arab and ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods.

He said inter-party tensions have reached a troublesome level among both groups. There have been sporadic reports of violent confrontations between Israeli Arab supporters of the Hadash Communist Party, the Progressive List for Peace and the new Arab Democratic Party.

### Kach To Avoid Disruptions

Among the ultra-Orthodox Jews, brawls have been reported between followers of the Agudat Yisrael, Degel Hatorah and Shas parties.

One headache expected by the police may not materialize. Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach party, removed from the ballot by court order a week ago, reportedly has decided not to try to disrupt the elections.

But Kahane's followers have applied to be poll watchers, which could spell trouble, especially in Israeli Arab towns.

The Kach leadership has called on its supporters to boycott the elections, or at least not to vote for the parties responsible for keeping Kach out of the elections. They include both Labor and Likud.

Meanwhile, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported that 2.89 million people will be eligible to vote Tuesday. Of that number, 88 percent are Jews and 12 percent non-Jews.

The number of Jews eligible to vote has risen by 8 percent since the last elections in 1984. The number of eligible non-Jews has shot up by 20 percent.

A statistical breakdown shows that 24 percent of the voters live in the three largest cities: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. Kibbutzim account for only 3 percent of the electorate, moshavim for 4 percent.

Voters of Sephardic and Ashkenazic origin each account for about 47-48 percent of the electorate. The remainder are third-generation Israelis -- and some whose families have lived in the country even longer -- who consider themselves neither Sephardic nor Ashkenazic.

The polls close at 10 p.m. local time Tuesday, and the vote count will start immediately thereafter. Election bulletins and updates will be issued throughout the night.

But an accurate reading of the results will not be available until well into Wednesday morning.

## LIKUD KNESSET MEMBER BURIED

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Micha Reiser, a Likud Knesset member, was buried Friday at Kiryat Shaul cemetery in Tel Aviv.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were among the several thousand mourners who attended his funeral.

Reiser, 42, a two-term member of the Knesset, died Thursday night of injuries suffered in an accident on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway.

**SAUDIS MAY SEEK UP TO \$8 BILLION IN ADVANCED WEAPONS FROM THE U.S.**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Saudi Arabia is considering asking the United States next year to sell it \$5 billion to \$8 billion worth of weapons, including F/A-18 fighter planes, Capitol Hill sources said Friday.

A fight with staunchly pro-Israel members of Congress would almost certainly ensue, possibly similar to the 1981 battle over the proposed sale of AWACS surveillance planes to the Saudis, which Congress ultimately approved.

Lawmakers were outraged this spring that Saudi Arabia bought Chinese CSS-2 ground-to-ground missiles capable of reaching Israel, without promptly informing the Reagan administration.

But members of Congress may be wary this time of opposing a sale. Last spring, lawmakers were stunned by news that Britain had concluded a deal with the Saudis estimated in the tens of billions of dollars.

Critics have pointed out that the potential loss of jobs and business to Americans could be enormous.

Rep. Lawrence Smith (D-Fla.), who often leads congressional fights to block Arab arms sales, said Friday he was suspicious of Saudi motives for seeking the latest batch of weapons. He noted that the United States sold the Saudis weapons on three occasions in 1987, as well as support equipment for the AWACS this year.

**Saudis Facing No Threat**

Speaking from Hollywood, Fla., Smith said that now that the Iran-Iraq war is over, there is no threat currently facing the Saudis.

He noted that the sale of 40 F/A-18s to Kuwait in August marked the introduction of the advanced fighter planes to the Arab world. At that time, Kuwait was concerned about protecting sea travel in the Persian Gulf, which has since quieted to a tenuous cease-fire.

The Saudis recently bought 72 British Tornado fighter planes. Smith was not sure why the Saudis would also need F/A-18s, saying that maybe since Kuwait got them, it represents the "dog-chasing-the-tail syndrome."

Smith added that if the Saudis request the sale as a "litmus test" of U.S. commitment to Arab states, "the American people should once and for all reject this idea."

A new Saudi request would also test campaign promises by Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and Vice President George Bush that they oppose arms sales that endanger Israel's security.

Commenting on reports of the new arms request, Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said, "We oppose the sale of arms sales to belligerents" in the Arab world. He added, "I cannot see why Saudi Arabia cannot sign a peace treaty with Israel."

Abram said he and other American Jewish leaders met in September with the Saudi ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, but declined to reveal the contents of that meeting.

The Washington Times reported Oct. 24 that the new request, to be placed by April, could also include M-1 battle tanks, M-2 and M-3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, and Patriot tactical air defense missiles -- all considered less threatening to Israel's security.

**IT'S UP TO ISRAEL TO MAKE PEACE, SAYS SOVIET FOREIGN SPOKESMAN**

By David Kantor

MOSCOW, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- A high-level Soviet official maintains that the future of peace in the Middle East is now squarely up to Israel.

Gennady Gerasimov, chief spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, also insists that Soviet support of the latest Arab attempt to oust Israel from the United Nations did not reflect a hardening of the Soviet attitude toward the Jewish state.

"Not at all," Gerasimov told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here last week. He was referring to the Soviet vote at the United Nations on Oct. 18 in favor of an Arab move to have the 43rd General Assembly reject Israel's credentials.

It was defeated by a 95-41 vote, one of the largest margins since the Arabs first attempted the maneuver in 1982. The Israelis were elated by the results, but disturbed that the Soviets continued to vote along with the Arab bloc.

"This particular event shows on the contrary that we did not change our position. We supported the Arab demand on expelling Israel all along and we did it again this year," Gerasimov said. He added, "That has been our traditional attitude."

The Israelis were told at the United Nations that a change in the Soviet voting pattern would occur only when an international conference for Middle East peace is convened.

According to Gerasimov, the fate of such a conference and a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict now depends largely on the results of Israel's parliamentary elections Tuesday.

**Will Extend Visas**

In his opinion, it is up to Israel to adopt a realistic approach and to make the conference possible. He does not think a further change in the Soviet attitude is necessary to allow this to happen.

Gerasimov confirmed that the Soviet government would extend the visas of a five-member Israeli consular delegation that came to Moscow last summer, the first diplomatic mission on any level to visit the USSR in 21 years.

But the official was adamant that the Israeli delegation is severely limited as to its activities.

While it may inspect the building on Bolshaya Street that housed the Israeli Embassy before Moscow broke diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967, there is no question of allowing the team of diplomats to use the building for any purpose.

"I do not think so. No, we won't do it," Gerasimov told JTA repeatedly.

Gerasimov stressed that the Israeli delegation came here for specific, limited purposes and its status has not changed.

He denied reports in the Israeli news media that the delegation has met members of the Foreign Ministry's political staff. The Israelis' contacts have been limited to officials in the consular and technical departments, Gerasimov said.

That was confirmed by Meron Gordon, head of the Israeli delegation, who was interviewed by JTA at his hotel.

Gerasimov would not say whether he would be prepared to receive members of the delegation if they asked for a meeting.

"The fact is that they didn't," he said. "They did not apply."

**SIX JEWS RUNNING FOR U.S. SENATE,  
46 RUNNING FOR SEATS IN THE HOUSE**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- The number of Jews in Congress could increase next year.

Three Jewish newcomers are seeking election to the Senate Nov. 8, along with three Jewish incumbents. In the House, 18 Jewish candidates are seeking to join the 28 Jews now serving as U.S. representatives.

In the Senate, where seven Jews now serve, Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) is seeking his third term and Chic Hecht (R-Nev.) and Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) are each running for their second.

The three Jewish challengers, all Democrats, are Connecticut state Attorney General Joseph Lieberman, who is running against three-term Sen. Lowell Weicker Jr.; Rhode Island Lt. Gov. Richard Licht, who is facing two-term Sen. John Chafee; and Herbert Kohl, the wealthy owner of the Milwaukee Bucks basketball team, who hopes to succeed Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.), who is retiring after 31 years in the Senate.

Hecht, the only Republican among the Jewish senatorial candidates, is also considered the most likely of the three incumbents to lose his seat.

Although his prospects have improved lately, Hecht is the underdog in a race against Nevada's popular governor, Richard Bryan. The Democratic governor has been receiving the bulk of contributions from pro-Israel political action committees, because they are dismayed by Hecht's votes in favor of arms sales to Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Lautenberg, Metzenbaum Favored

While Lautenberg and Metzenbaum are both engaged in tough races with their Republican opponents, they are favored to win as the election campaign moves into its final week.

Lautenberg is being challenged by Pete Dawkins, the former West Point football star and army general, whose celebrity status and instant name recognition was originally seen as a threat to the New Jersey Democrat. But the senator is now believed to be well ahead in the polls.

The same is true for Metzenbaum, whose opponent, Cleveland Mayor George Voinovich, has not been able to cut the advantage Metzenbaum enjoys as an incumbent, despite earlier predictions that he could defeat the Democratic senator.

The three Jewish challengers also are not expected, at this time, to overcome the advantage their opponents enjoy as incumbent senators. In all six Senate races, the presidential campaign is expected to have only a marginal effect.

In Connecticut, the latest poll shows Lieberman and Weicker almost neck and neck, although the Republican senator, a liberal maverick in his party, has been ahead for most of the year.

Both men have enjoyed popularity in the Jewish community in their previous races. Weicker and Metzenbaum have been the leading opponents in the Senate of any attempts to weaken the separation of church and state and other First Amendment constitutional guarantees.

Weicker has criticized Lieberman for supporting a moment of silence in the public schools. Lieberman has faulted Weicker for being one of 55 senators who signed a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz last spring critical of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's stance on the peace process.

The race in Rhode Island has become one of the most controversial in the Jewish community.

Pro-Israel PACs have donated funds exclusively to Licht, because of Chafee's support for arms sales to the Arab countries. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee has been accused of orchestrating the anti-Chafee drive, a charge which it has denied.

At the same time, Jewish Republicans have defended Chafee, stressing that he is not anti-Israel and has always supported military and economic aid for Israel.

The Jewish challenger seen as having the best chance to win is Kohl, who spent millions of his own money in the Wisconsin Democratic primary. He is doing the same thing in the race against his Republican opponent, who is Susan Engleiter, minority leader of the state Senate.

While incumbency is an advantage in the Senate, it is just about a guarantee of re-election in the House, especially in recent years with PACs contributing most of their money to incumbents, regardless of party affiliation.

But at least two of the 24 Jewish Democratic and four Jewish Republican incumbents may have a difficult time getting re-elected. They are Rep. Howard Wolpe (D-Mich.), who has faced close races in his Lansing district since first being elected in 1978, and Rep. John Miller (R-Wash.), whose Democratic challenger, Reese Lindquist, lost by only 5,000 votes in 1986.

The one Jewish newcomer elected two years ago was Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.), who ran for an open seat. Three of the Jewish challengers this year are running for open seats. They are Steve Schiff, a Republican of New Mexico, and two New York Democrats, Elliot Engel and Rosemary Pooler.

Pooler, who is active in the Syracuse Jewish community, ran a close race two years ago against Rep. George Wortley, which was not decided until the absentee ballots were counted. But the Republican incumbent is not seeking re-election this year.

One Jewish Woman In House

There is only one Jewish woman in the House, Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.). In addition to Pooler, three other women are seeking first terms in the House.

They are Lana Pollack, a Democrat challenging Rep. Carl Pursell (R-Mich.); Myrna Alpert, a Republican opposing Rep. Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.); and Nita Lowey, a Democrat opposing Rep. Joseph DiGuardi (R-N.Y.).

In Alaska, Peter Grunstein, a Democrat, is opposing Republican Rep. Don Young in a statewide race for Alaska's lone House seat.

Among the other challengers, only two are Republicans, both running against Jewish incumbents. Jim Salomon is challenging Rep. Anthony Beilenson (D-Calif.), and Herb Sohn is opposing Rep. Sidney Yates (D-Ill.), dean of the Jewish House members.

The other Jewish candidates are Bob Feigenbaum, opposing Rep. Jack Buechner (R-Mo.); Gene Freund, opposing Rep. James Lightfoot (R-Iowa); Gene Friedman, opposing Rep. John Porter (R-Ill.); David Landow, opposing Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.); Roger Pearson, opposing Rep. Chris Shays (R-Conn.); Ed Reibman, opposing Rep. Don Ritter (R-Pa.); Robert Weinberg, opposing Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va.); and Norm Weinstein, opposing Rep. Jim Courter (R-N.J.).

In addition, Bernie Sanders, the Socialist mayor of Burlington, Vt., is running as an independent for a House seat.