

**DEMANDS OF RELIGIOUS ARE WEIGHED  
AS COALITION TALKS CONTINUE**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 3 (JTA) — As Likud ministers continued preliminary talks with potential coalition partners Thursday, sources close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that he does not intend to give in to every demand made by the religious parties.

But Shamir needs their support to establish a governing majority, which the secular right-wing parties alone cannot give him.

Orthodox politicians for their part say they seek no more than restoration of the religious status quo, the unwritten agreements that have defined relations between observant and non-observant Jews since the state was formed.

Left-liberal circles and much of the news media are expressing profound concern over what they see as a growing movement to change the country into a theocracy.

But Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, leader of the ultra-Orthodox Shas party, and Menahem Porush, veteran Knesset member of the Agudat Yisrael, claim those fears are unfounded.

"We seek only equality and the preservation of the Jewish character of the state," Porush declared in a radio interview.

Peretz and Avner Shaki, the hard-liner who heads the National Religious Party, insisted on television that they do not demand or support religious coercion in the private lives of citizens.

But a reading of the Orthodox political and social agenda casts some doubt over their plan.

Shas, which won six seats to make it the third largest faction in the Knesset, is expected to seek three Cabinet portfolios in the next government from among the Interior, Housing, Religious Affairs or Education ministries.

Any three of those ministries in ultra-Orthodox hands would assert considerable control over private affairs.

**"Who is a Jew" Legislation**

Shas also demands:

- Passage of the "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return, which would invalidate conversions to Judaism performed by non-Orthodox rabbis.

- Preserving the Jewish character of the state in public.

- A law that would empower local authorities to institute religious by-laws that the courts would uphold. They would affect individual activities and lifestyles.

- Legislation to increase government assistance to large families — the Orthodox have the highest birthrate among Israeli Jews — and enforce public Sabbath observance and other religious rituals.

- The abolition of daylight-saving time, which the strictly observant say throws off their prayer schedule.

The NRP, with five Knesset seats, wants three portfolios, including education and religious affairs.

It insists on:

- The "Who is a Jew" legislation and the empowerment law.

- Preserving the Jewish character of the state in public.

- A sweeping new settlement drive in the administered territories, and tougher measures to suppress the Palestinian uprising.

- Material encouragement to increase the Jewish birthrate, and higher subsidies for large families.

Agudat Yisrael, also with five seats, does not seek Cabinet portfolios, but would insist on the director generalships of key ministries.

It also is pushing for:

- "Who is a Jew" legislation.

- Tougher anti-autopsy legislation.

- Tougher enforcement of the law banning abortion for socio-economic reasons.

- Legislation explicitly banning archaeological digs where there might be ancient Jewish burial sites.

- Preserving the Jewish character of the state in public.

The Degel HaTorah party, an Agudat Yisrael breakaway which has one, or possibly two Knesset seats, is demanding:

- "Equal treatment for the Orthodox sector" in education, housing, culture and welfare. It does not insist on "Who is a Jew" legislation.

The "Who is a Jew" measure has infuriated Reform, Progressive and Conservative Jews, who comprise the majority of affiliated Jews in the United States and most other Diaspora countries.

Any Israeli government that attempted to force its passage would be under severe pressure from those sources, with unpredictable outcomes.

**DRIVE TO PASS 'WHO IS A JEW'  
WORRIES U.S. JEWISH GROUPS**

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Nov. 3 (JTA) — The attempt of Israel's religious parties to resurrect the "Who is a Jew" amendment in coalition-building negotiations with Likud and the Labor Party is causing deep concern among major American Jewish organizations.

In separate cables sent after the religious parties' stunning success in the elections became apparent, Zionist and religious organizations here urged Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir and Labor leader Shimon Peres not to allow "Who is a Jew" to become a bargaining chip.

Their concerns were heightened Wednesday, when all but one of the Orthodox parties said they would not be willing to participate in a government unless the ruling party guaranteed that the Knesset would pass the amendment.

The amendment would change Israel's legal definition of a Jew to exclude people who are converted according to the standards of Reform or Conservative Judaism.

The Knesset has rejected the amendment over the past 10 years, saying it would delegitimize and thereby alienate Diaspora Jews, especially the clear majority of affiliated American Jews who are either Reform or Conservative.

Organizations cabling Israel included the Zionist Organization of America, the American Jewish Congress, Reform Judaism's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Association of Reform Zionists of America and Mercaz, which

represents Conservative Judaism in the World Zionist Organization.

Last month, the Council of Jewish Federations also cabled Jerusalem, urging Shamir and Peres to bar negotiations over the issue.

"Our leadership sees it as a serious matter," Carmi Schwartz, CJF executive vice president, said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "We will convene our coalition on 'Who is a Jew' and discuss how we are going to react."

Robert Lifton, president of AJCongress, said in his cable: "Any action to change this law would be a grave error, a betrayal of Jewish unity and would certainly alienate the American Jewish community."

"The principle behind the Law of Return must transcend partisan political gain," he said.

Both Shamir and Peres have in the past assured American Jewish leaders that they would try to keep the amendment from becoming a political issue. Leaders of the Reform movement expressed the hope Wednesday that the two leaders would hold to those assurances.

#### **'Hell To Pay'**

But if the religious parties are successful in pushing the amendment, "there will be hell to pay here," said Rabbi Joseph Glaser, executive vice president of Reform's Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Among Glaser's concerns, and those of other leaders interviewed for this article, was that American Jews would perceive Israel as dominated by ultra-Orthodox parties and would curtail their contributions to the United Jewish Appeal.

But Glaser said that he has been reminding colleagues that the UJA and its chief beneficiary, the Jewish Agency, "are not politicized," and cutting off contributions would only punish Israel's citizens.

Schwartz of CJF said he did not think "Who is a Jew" would threaten contributions to federations and UJA.

"Some individuals may articulate that, but the largest portion of them will remain loyal to their responsibility."

Nevertheless, CJF will in all likelihood battle the amendment, as it did earlier this year by joining UJA in placing advertisements in the Israeli press.

#### **Defends Advocacy**

Other groups, mostly Orthodox, have criticized such direct involvement in Israel's political process. But Schwartz defended the advocacy role:

"The largest portion of our constituents has asked us to take and activate a strong position on this. We are not taking a position on substance. What we are saying is that the Knesset is the wrong forum to adjudicate this issue."

Some of the strongest support for the "Who is a Jew" amendment has come from the Lubavitch Hasidic movement.

This year, for the first time, Lubavitch made a direct appeal on behalf of a specific Israeli political party when it urged its Israeli adherents to cast their votes for Agudat Yisrael.

A spokesman for Lubavitch, Rabbi Yosef Friedman, acknowledged Wednesday that the amendment has largely been a Lubavitch initiative.

But Friedman said the amendment merely sets a standard for conversions that is acceptable to all denominations. He argued that rather than be divisive, the amendment should be seen as a unifying factor.

#### **HIGH COURT HEARS APPEALS FOR REGISTERING NON-ORTHODOX CONVERSIONS By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- The cases of converts to Judaism, whose status is challenged by the Orthodox religious establishment, were discussed by the High Court of Justice Thursday.

The court's ultimate decision is awaited with considerable interest here.

But it might become moot if the ultra-Orthodox political parties succeed in forcing the Knesset to adopt the controversial "Who is a Jew" amendment, which would nullify conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis.

The matter under judicial review started with the case of Shoshana Miller, an immigrant from the United States who was converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi in Colorado.

The Orthodox-controlled Interior Ministry refused to register her as Jewish, and when the High Court ordered the ministry to issue Miller a Jewish ID card, Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz of the Shas party resigned rather than comply with the court's ruling.

In discussions Thursday before the High Court, Willi Arad of the State Attorney's Office argued that the ruling in the Miller case was based on an assumption:

"If a person declares that he is Jewish by law, he should be registered as such unless there is evidence to the contrary," Arad said.

Arad noted further that the official in charge of the Interior Ministry is not empowered to decide on the validity of a conversion process.

The trial will continue at a later date, but this could change if the new Knesset pulls the rug out from under the state prosecution and passes a new law -- disqualifying any conversion not done according to halacha -- before the High Court rules.

#### **DUKAKIS, BUSH SAY THEY CAN WORK WITH NEXT ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER By David Friedman**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and Vice President George Bush have both stressed that they will be able to work for a Middle East peace with whoever forms a government in Israel in the wake of Tuesday's Knesset elections.

Dukakis gave his assurance in a statement issued Wednesday night from his Boston campaign headquarters congratulating the people of Israel for their demonstration of democracy.

Bush did not issue a statement after the Israeli elections.

But on Thursday, his campaign headquarters here released a letter on the Israeli elections that he sent Oct. 24 to an American Public Affairs Committee dinner in Los Angeles.

In it, Bush said, "I look forward to working closely with the national leadership elected by the people of Israel, whomever they choose."

Bush pointed out that both Shamir and Peres "are good friends of mine and of the United States." He said the two Israeli leaders are "committed to the search for lasting peace and security for Israel."

Dukakis said he was "confident whoever emerges as prime minister in Israel will work tirelessly for progress toward peace among its neighbors and will defend the security of the State of Israel."

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OVERWHELMINGLY CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S POLICIES

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 3 (JTA) — The United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly Thursday night to condemn Israel's policies in the territories and the measures it has taken to quell the uprising.

The vote was 130-2, with 16 abstentions. Only Israel and the United States voted against it.

In the course of the debate, the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization accused Israel of killing at least 411 Palestinians since the uprising began on Dec. 9, 1987.

But Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Johanan Bein, charged that the meeting was called only "to incite and instigate more violence and more suffering among both Israelis and Palestinian Arabs."

The United States announced in advance of the vote that it would not support the draft resolution.

U.S. Ambassador Herbert Okun said it contained "harsh rhetoric" that can "only enflame an already embittered situation."

Okun also charged that the resolution was "an unbalanced document condemning one of the parties without taking into account acts of violence committed by the other side."

The resolution also called on the secretary-general of the United Nations to examine the situation in the territories and to submit "periodic reports" to the General Assembly, the first one no later than Nov. 17 of this year.

Ambassador Bein, who addressed the General Assembly before the voting, declared that as long as violence continues in the territories, "Israel will exercise its right and duty under international law to restore order in the face of violent provocation."

"We will continue to do so with maximum restraint and in full compliance with the laws enacted not by Israel, but by those that have governed this area for almost half a century, well before Israel took control of them."

## ARAFAT SAYS ELECTION RESULTS HAVE NO BEARING ON INTIFADA

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Nov. 3 (JTA) — Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat offered his analysis of Tuesday's Israeli elections, and insisted that the results would have no bearing on the intifada — the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The revolt will continue, wave after wave, until the end of the occupation," Arafat told reporters here Thursday after a 90-minute meeting with Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Arafat was making a three-hour stopover after a flight from Baghdad.

As for the outcome of the election, which put the balance of political power in the hands of ultra-Orthodox and extreme right-wing parties, the PLO chief said, "The results show the failure of the two main parties."

"The growth of the small parties shows the confusion of the electorate," Arafat said, although according to him, there was no difference between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc and the Labor Party headed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

## U.S.-ISRAEL TIES COULDN'T BE BETTER, CARLUCCI DECLARES IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 3 (JTA) — Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci arrived here Wednesday for a round of meetings with Israeli leaders, in what is probably his last encounter before the change of administrations in Washington.

Carlucci appeared on the final leg of a three-nation tour of the region that also took him to Jordan and Egypt.

Before leaving Cairo Tuesday, Carlucci asserted that the United States will continue to foster the Middle East peace regardless of who is the next prime minister of Israel and whatever the composition of the new government.

His remarks at Ben-Gurion Airport were confined, however, to the American-Israeli strategic relationship.

Later, during a tour of Israel Defense Force installations while accompanied by Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Carlucci said that relations between the United States and Israel "could not be better at this point."

He said of his talks with Rabin, "It did not take long to review our programs this morning because all our programs are in such good shape."

Carlucci was greeted at the airport by Rabin and Chief of Staff Gen. Dan Shomron. He later met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Their talks were reported to have focused on mutual strategic cooperation. Israel's objections to American arms sales to Arab states also are believed to have been raised.

But observers here played down the importance of the visit, inasmuch as both Carlucci and Rabin will soon leave office.

## NOVEMBER EMIGRATION UP SLIGHTLY, PASSES 2,000 FIGURE AGAIN

NEW YORK, Nov. 3 (JTA) — October's figures for Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union showed a slight increase from the previous month and, again as in September, was the largest monthly total of Jews leaving the Soviet Union since April 1980.

A total of 2,068 Jews left the Soviet Union in October, of whom 192, or 9.3 percent, went to Israel, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The total number of Jews who have left the Soviet Union this year to date is 13,306, the highest number since 1980, when 21,471 Jews emigrated. In April 1980, 2,469 Jews emigrated from the Soviet Union.

The October figure exceeded by only 17 the number of Jews who emigrated in September—2,051 — and exhibited the same percentage as last month of emigres arriving in Israel.

The majority of these Jewish emigres, 1,954, traveled through Vienna, of whom 78 proceeded to Israel. A total of 114 went to Israel directly via Bucharest, Romania.

The total of Soviet emigres, both Jews and non-Jews, arriving in Vienna in October was 2,473, of which 519 were non-Jews, according to National Conference figures.

This includes those going through Bucharest and Vienna.

The National Conference estimates that the vast majority of Jews leaving the Soviet Union are not long-term refuseniks.

## ANTI-ISRAEL MEASURES TO APPEAR TUESDAY ON BALLOTS IN TWO STATES

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Nov. 3 (JTA) — American voters in California and Massachusetts will vote next Tuesday on four different propositions calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state and criticizing Israel for its policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The anti-Israeli measures will be on the ballots in the Nov. 8 elections in San Francisco and Berkeley, Calif., and in Cambridge and Newton, in the Boston area.

\* Proposition W in San Francisco call on the city to officially support "statehood in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza, side by side with the State of Israel, with guarantees for the security of both states."

\* Measure J in Berkeley calls for the establishment of the Palestinian Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip as a "sister city" of Berkeley. Jabalya is one of the poorest refugee camps, known for its squalid living conditions.

The two separate referendums in Cambridge and Newton are known together as Question No. 5, but the language of the proposition in each district is different.

\* The Cambridge proposition calls on the district's congressman to "vote in favor of a resolution to achieve peace in the Mideast by demanding that Israel end its violation of Palestinian human rights and its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

The proposition also supports the establishment of a Palestinian state and calls for a cut in U.S. aid to Israel equivalent to the money Israel uses in the administered territories.

### Supported By Arab Groups

\* The Newton measure, clearly more balanced than the Cambridge proposition, calls on the U.S. government to "support the principles of self determination for the Israeli and Palestinian people; the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip next to Israel; and security for Israel and the new Palestinian state."

All four measures were initiated and supported by various pro-Arabs groups in the United States and the National Association of Arab Americans.

Jewish groups and supporters of Israel across the country, alarmed that the new initiatives are designed to change public opinion in the United States and create a new anti-Israeli stance from the local level to the national one, have joined forces to fight the propositions and defeat them next Tuesday.

A broad-based coalition of Jewish groups and organizations was formed in Boston to fight Question No. 5. The coalition, Americans for Peace in the Middle East, is co-chaired by Reps. Barney Frank and Joseph Kennedy, both Massachusetts Democrats, from Newton and Cambridge, respectively.

The two legislators had a joint news conference in Boston last week, announcing their opposition to the anti-Israeli measure, declaring that they believe in direct negotiations among the parties to the Middle East conflict and are opposed to the imposition of a peace settlement.

Sheila Decter, executive director of the New England Region of the American Jewish Congress, said the organizations who are members of Americans for Peace include the Anti Defamation

League of B'nai B'rith; the American Jewish Committee; the American Jewish Congress; the Jewish Community Relations Council; the Jewish Labor Committee; and the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston.

### Hopes For A Defeat

She pointed out that the Question No. 5 referendums state in effect "that the burden of achieving peace rests solely with Israel, that the Arabs do not have to give up anything, not even a peace treaty ending the 40-year state of war."

In a telephone interview, Decter said that "we have been working very hard" to defeat the two measures. She said she believed both measures will be rejected by the majority of the voters on Tuesday.

Philip Perlmutter, executive director of the JCRC of Greater Boston, said in a telephone interview, "We don't know how the voters will vote, but we hope the measures will be defeated."

Both measures, he asserted, are one-sided. "These are non-binding resolutions. They will not lead to peace. They are clearly one-sided and put the onus of responsibility on Israel alone. Both do not mention Arab violations of human rights, Arab terrorism or the Arab refusal to recognize Israel."

Perlmutter claimed that the anti-Israeli propositions are a sign that there is an increased activity on the part of Arab-Americans and radical elements sympathetic to the Arab cause. "This will undoubtedly increase," he predicted.

He said he believes that in Newton, where almost 40 percent of the 8,200 population is Jewish, the measure will be defeated. But in Cambridge, where the Jewish community is not sizeable, the outcome is not as clear.

Jewish groups and organizations in California also have joined forces to defeat the anti-Israeli propositions in San Francisco and Berkeley.

The national office of the ADL has recently allocated \$25,000 to defeat the propositions. About \$22,000 of the allocation went to the No On Proposition W Campaign in San Francisco and \$3,000 to the No On Measure J Campaign in Berkeley.

### 'Very Divisive' Measures

Rita Semel, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council in San Francisco, said in a telephone interview: "We have been mounting a major mail campaign to defeat the propositions. So far, the responses we have been getting indicate that people feel that the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict does not belong in local politics."

"The propositions are very dangerous," Semel continued, "because they encourage local governments to take stands on international affairs. It is very divisive and diverts attention from local issues."

She said she believes both propositions will be defeated. But she pointed out that the propositions are among 26 other issues on the ballot, and "it is hard to tell if people will bother to vote on them at all."

Anthony Garret, who heads the No on Proposition W Campaign, and Louise Stahl, who chairs the No On Measure J Campaign, said in interviews with the Northern California Jewish Bulletin that they see a relationship between the Boston measures and the California propositions.

"One has to wonder whether a coordinated effort is taking place," said Garret.

Added Stahl: "The California and Massachusetts measures are definitely related."