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## FATE OF NEXT GOVERNMENT HANGS ON OUTCOME OF SHAS PARTY SESSION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- The character of Israel's next government may be decided this weekend by the leaders and mentors of an ultra-Orthodox political party scheduled to meet behind closed doors.

Shas, whose spiritual guide is the former Sephardic chief rabbi of Israel, Ovadia Yosef, emerged from the Nov. 1 elections the largest of the four religious parties and the third largest faction in the Knesset.

It must decide whether to align its six Knesset seats with a coalition government headed by Labor or one led by Likud.

A meeting of the Shas Council of Torah Sages has been scheduled for Saturday night, to be chaired by Yosef. The council will hand down the word to the party's new Knesset faction.

It is scheduled to inform President Chaim Herzog on Sunday whom it recommends he ask to form the next government. The president must choose the leader he thinks most likely to succeed in that task.

Herzog also will be meeting Sunday with the representatives of two other religious parties, Agudat Yisrael and Degel HaTorah, which have seven Knesset seats between them.

They, along with Shas, had asked for postponements, which the president grudgingly granted. But Herzog made it clear this week that Sunday is his deadline. By then he wants to know every party's preference so he can set in motion the coalition-building process without further delay.

The non-religious parties already have lined up as expected.

The leftist Mapam and Citizens Rights Movement, as well as the Center-Shinui Movement, have declared their preference for a Labor-led government. They urged Herzog to approach Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The right-wing Tehiya, Tsomet and Moledet parties all have opted for a Likud government headed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

But neither Labor nor Likud can form a government with their respective ideological allies alone.

They must have the religious parties, and of the four, Shas is pivotal. According to insiders, it is also deeply divided. Party strongman Arye Deri, director general of the Interior Ministry, is lobbying for an alliance with Labor. He is backed by most of the party's Knesset faction.

But Rabbi Yosef and some of the Knesset members have come under pressure, some of it crudely expressed in anonymous telephone calls, from rank-and-file voters demanding that the party cast its lot with Likud.

Peres and Labor's No. 2 man, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, met with Yosef at his home Monday. They sought to persuade him that the peace and security of the state rests in his hands.

They urged him to support Labor's moderate positions, which include trading territory for peace as part of a final settlement with Israel's Arab neighbors.

Peres and Rabin also place hope in Degel

HaTorah's mentor, Rabbi Eliezer Schach. He wields powerful influence with Shas as well, and the Laborites hope he will push both parties in their direction, since he holds dovish views on the Palestinian issue.

But Likud, too, is importuning the key spiritual leaders. Herut hard-liner Ariel Sharon met with Yosef last Sunday and telephoned Schach on Monday.

Shamir on Tuesday was reportedly seeking a meeting with Yosef.

Labor holds an arithmetical advantage in the race. It needs only one of the religious parties, Shas or Agudat Yisrael, to put together a narrow-based coalition. Likud needs both.

Labor's hopes also rest on the assumption that the Hadash Communists would passively support their government, at least by abstaining to vote on crucial issues.

But the Orthodox are unenthusiastic over any kind of political alliance with the Communists, active or passive.

The situation is further complicated by the acute bitterness between Rabbi Schach and the Agudah, particularly its Chabad Hasidic component.

But no outside observers can offer informed opinions yet as to whether the depth of feeling between the Orthodox leaders definitely rules out a coalition government in which both participate.

## NEW MEMBERS OF 12TH KNESSET INCLUDE MANY NEW TO POLITICS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- If there is one thing that the 15 Israeli political parties elected to the Knesset last week have in common, it is that nearly all of them are sending new faces to sit in the 120-member legislative body.

Mostly young, predominantly Sephardic and new to politics are the words that describe most of the 18 members of the ultra-Orthodox parties who were elected to the 12th Knesset last week.

The far right-wing Tsomet and Moledet parties and the leftist Mapam also will be sending new faces to the Knesset, though their accent on youth is not so pronounced.

The ultra-Orthodox made a strong showing on Election Day, with candidates chosen for their religious backgrounds, rather than political experience.

Four of the six men the Shas party will send to the Knesset are newcomers. After incumbents Yitzhak Peretz and Rafael Pinhasi, No. 3 on its list is Rabbi Yosef Azran, 47, who has been Sephardic chief rabbi of Rishon le-Zion for the last 12 years. He also heads a rabbinical court in Paris and an educational institution in Strasbourg, France.

Azran is a graduate of a yeshiva in Tangier, Morocco. He also studied in London and at the Ponetz yeshiva in Bnei Brak, headed by the venerable Rabbi Eliezer Schach.

Fourth on the Shas list and its only member of Yemenite ancestry is Israeli-born Rabbi Arieh Gamliel, 37. He heads a yeshiva in the Negev development town of Sderot and was said to have been reluctant to enter the Knesset race. He reportedly was persuaded by Schach and former

hardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual mentor of Shas.

#### Torah Scholars, Not Politicians

Shas' No. 5 man is Yair Levi, 36, who was active behind the scenes until now as the party's director general and an administrator of Sephardic institutions.

Rabbi Shlomo Dayan, sixth on the Shas list, is Moroccan-born and represents the party on the Jerusalem City Council. He is founder of the Sephardic Metivta school in Jerusalem.

The Agudat Yisrael party, which won five Knesset seats, is now headed by Rabbi Moshe Zeev Feldman, 58, an Austrian-born member of the Gur Hasidic movement and director of the Imrei Emet yeshiva in Bnei Brak. He will take the Agudah seat held by Avraham Shapira in the outgoing Knesset.

Feldman is described as a "Torah scholar but not a politician." He is known to be extremely hostile to Schach, who broke with the Agudah to form the new Degel HaTorah party.

Degel's No. 1 man is Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, 54, a father of 12. He heads the Or Sameach yeshiva in Jerusalem, a school for people newly turned to religion. He reputedly influenced a popular Israeli actor, Uri Zohar, to embrace the faith. The other Degel seat is going to Rafael Moshe Gafni, another newcomer.

Three of the Knesset seats won by the National Religious Party will be going to men who did not serve in the 11th Knesset. They are Hanan Porat, Yigal Bibi and Yitzhak Levi.

#### The Secular Newcomers

The Knesset members of the secular right, as distinguished from the religious right, have military or scientific backgrounds.

The expansionist Tsomet party, which won two seats, is headed by reserve Gen. Rafael Eitan, a former Israel Defense Force chief of staff who sat in the 11th Knesset as part of the Tehiya.

He chose as his second in command Yoash Zidon, 62, a former air force officer. Zidon is a graduate of Israel's first flying course and was a wing commander during the Sinai campaign in 1956.

Zidon founded Cyclone, an Israeli company that manufactures aircraft parts. He has acted as a consultant for several Latin American countries.

Professor Yair Sprinzak, 66, a chemist at Tel Aviv University and at the Weizmann Institute of Science, is No. 2 man of Gen. Rehavam Zeevi's new Moledet party, which won two Knesset seats.

Moledet's campaign called for the "transfer" -- meaning expulsion -- of Arabs from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Sprinzak, whose father, Yosef, was speaker of the first Knesset and a prominent member of Mapai, forerunner of the Labor Party, insists Moledet's philosophy is not so distant from the party of David Ben-Gurion.

"Many members of Mapai believed in transfer," according to Sprinzak.

Two of the three Knesset seats won by Mapam, the leftist United Workers Party of Israel, will be occupied by newcomers.

They are Chaim Oron, 48, secretary of the National Kibbutz Movement for the past eight years, and Fares Hasein, 52, the only newly elected Arab member of the Knesset.

Oron, a member of Kibbutz Lahav, is a leader of Peace Now. Hasein is editor of New Outlook magazine and chairman of the Committee

Against Racism and for Coexistence, based in Western Galilee. He is headmaster of a school in Acre.

One of the two Knesset seats won by the Center-Shinui Movement will be occupied by a newcomer. He is Avraham Fosmintir.

There are several newcomers in the Knesset delegations of the two largest parties, Likud and Labor.

#### **IDF READY FOR HEIGHTENED VIOLENCE EXPECTED AFTER ALGIERS CONCLAVE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force is prepared for an anticipated increase in the level of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip following a meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers this weekend, according to Gen. Dan Shomron, the IDF chief of staff.

The PNC, which is to convene Saturday, is expected to declare an independent Palestinian state in the administered territories. Shomron believes such a move would fan the intensity of the Palestinian uprising in the territories, which enters its 12th month Wednesday.

The PNC, sometimes known as the Palestinian parliament in exile, is considered by Israelis to be part and parcel of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Speaking to Israeli military correspondents here, Shomron said the PLO is trying to extract political gains from the intifada, the Arabic name for the uprising. It seeks to breathe life into the uprising and to drive a wedge between Israel and the West, he said.

If an independent Palestinian state is declared, Palestinians in the administered territories would gain the feeling they had achieved something through the intifada, Shomron said. Therefore the IDF is prepared for larger and more frequent demonstrations and other forms of disorder in the territories.

Turning to another security matter, the chief of staff reported that since Aug. 1, 72 terrorists have been killed, 142 wounded and 21 captured north of the Israeli border with Lebanon. He said 55 of the dead and 133 of the wounded were hit in Israeli air force strikes on terrorist bases in Lebanon.

#### **ITALIAN OFFICIAL GOING TO ISRAEL**

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti flew to Israel on Tuesday, at the invitation of Premier Yitzhak Shamir. He also is scheduled to have talks with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Andreotti is the first senior European statesman to go to Jerusalem since Israel's parliamentary elections a week ago. He is traveling in his capacity of chairman of the European Community's Council of Ministers, a position that rotates every six months among the 12 nations that form the European Community.

Andreotti, a former prime minister, has been active for years in Middle East diplomacy. Less than a week ago, he had a 90-minute meeting in Rome with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

Andreotti supports Palestinian demands for a homeland, but insists on Israel's right to exist in security.

## SLA COMMANDER IS RECOVERING FROM ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Gen. Antoine Lehad was reported out of danger Tuesday at Rambam Hospital in Haifa following an assassination attempt at his home in Marjayoun, in the southern Lebanon security zone.

Lehad is commander of the South Lebanon Army, a largely Lebanese Christian force of about 2,600 men, armed, trained and financed by Israel to police the security zone along Israel's border with Lebanon.

He was shot in the chest and upper arm by Suha Bshara, 21, a ballet and physical education instructor described as a friend of the family. She was immediately arrested by SLA troops.

Beirut newspapers identified Bshara as a member of Lebanon's tiny Communist Party, which is backed by Syria. She was issued a pistol permit only two weeks ago, the newspapers said.

Maj. Gen. Yossi Peled, the Israel Defense Force commander for the northern sector, visited Lehad at the hospital. He said the IDF considers the assassination attempt "very serious."

Sources in southern Lebanon speculated that it may have been the result of an SLA crackdown on Hezbollah (the Party of God).

The pro-Iranian Shiite extremist group was responsible for a suicide car-bomb attack that killed eight IDF soldiers and wounded seven in the security zone last month.

### A Friend Of His Wife's

The attack on Lehad appears to have been planned for some time. Bshara, a frequent visitor to the general's home, was allowed in without being checked for weapons by security guards.

According to Lehad's wife, Minerva, she and her friend Bshara were in their salon with one of Lehad's top aides when the general returned home.

After chatting a few minutes, Bshara approached Lehad for financial assistance for her ballet school. Suddenly, she pulled a gun and shot him, Minerva Lehad said.

Lehad has commanded the SLA since 1984, when the IDF began its pull-out from Lebanon and established the security zone as a buffer against terrorist attacks on northern Israel.

It was the successor to the Christian militia of Col. Saad Haddad, who died of cancer shortly after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Gen. Dan Shomron, the IDF chief of staff, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday that Lehad's bodyguard warned him against Bshara 18 months ago, when they first became friendly. He disregarded the warnings.

## PALESTINIANS TO BEGIN EXPORTING PRODUCE DIRECTLY TO EUROPEANS

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- A new trade era will begin at the end of this month when the first direct export of Palestinian agricultural produce from the West Bank and Gaza Strip reach the European market, European Community sources said here Tuesday.

The initial consignment of 6,000 tons, mainly grapefruit grown in Gaza, will go to importers in West Germany, Britain, Holland and Denmark.

A total of 16,000 tons of fruits and vegeta-

bles from the Israeli-administered territories is expected under a contract between Israel, the Palestinian exporters and the European Community.

Until now, exports from the territories had to be marketed through Agrexco, the official Israel government export agency. Israel was reluctant to allow Palestinians to export their goods independently.

But Israel, bowing to pressure from the E.C. Executive Commission and the Parliament of Europe, agreed to allow direct Palestinian exports.

Israel was forced to make that concession so that the Parliament of Europe would ratify three trade protocols that Israel signed over a year ago with the 12 nations belonging to the European Community.

## SPECULATION OVER COLUMBUS' JUDAISM RAISED ANEW BY ITALY'S AMBASSADOR

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Speculation over that Christopher Columbus may have had Jewish ancestry has been alive for generations -- at least since the 1930s, when the Spanish scholar, Salvador de Madriaga, made a case for it.

But could it be true?

There are grounds to believe so, Italy's ambassador to Israel, Alberto Leoncini Bartoli, said Saturday. He spoke at the opening of the Columbus Exhibition at the National Maritime Museum in Haifa.

Bartoli admitted that "nothing is settled" about Columbus' origin. But "there might be something to the claim" that he was Jewish, the envoy said.

He noted that Columbus' mother, "a daughter of the Fontanarosa family, was named Susanna, which is a Jewish name."

The Italian port city of Genoa claims him as a native son and will celebrate the 500th anniversary of his voyages of discovery in 1992.

The envoy invited Israel to participate.

So has Spain, under whose auspices Columbus sailed.

Spain is planning a year-long celebration of the event, which coincides with the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of Jews from that country.

Spain will highlight the contributions made by Jews to Spanish culture and history.

Could Columbus have been one of them? Some scholars have pointed out that his family name, Colon, was one used by Marranos -- Jews forced to convert to the Catholic faith who secretly practiced their own religion.

## POLIO OUTBREAK ENDS IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- The polio outbreak in Israel has been officially declared over.

Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino reported Tuesday that no new cases have been diagnosed in the last five weeks.

Fifteen cases in all were reported between August and October, leading to a mass inoculation drive.

A total of 3.2 million people under age 40 were given the polio vaccine, the health minister said. She said they included ultra-Orthodox Jews and others who at first refused to be inoculated.

Meanwhile, Health Ministry officials here said rumors of a meningitis outbreak were false.

## GOVERNORS OF ALL 50 STATES SIGN KRISTALLNACHT PROCLAMATIONS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- The governors of all 50 states have issued proclamations commemorating the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht, Nov. 9-10, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council reported Tuesday.

The proclamations, which were issued at the council's request, also were issued by more than 150 mayors throughout the United States. They urged their constituents to "always strive to overcome prejudice and inhumanity through understanding, vigilance and resistance."

Many of the survivors of the Holocaust have died, said Benjamin Meed, a survivor and chairman of the council's Days of Remembrance Committee.

"For those of us who are left, time is our enemy," Meed said. "Now, it is our obligation to bear witness, to tell the story, and to transmit its essence before it is too late."

The council has distributed 15,000 booklets providing background material and ways for schools and communities to observe the anniversary of the Nazi rampage through Germany and Austria, which many believe foreshadowed the Holocaust.

A film series marking Kristallnacht is being shown through November in New York and Washington, cosponsored by the council. Public television stations in the United States are to show two documentaries on Kristallnacht Wednesday night.

In addition there will be commemoration programs and services in churches, synagogues and schools throughout the country. Synagogues will commemorate the anniversary by keeping their lights on throughout the night Wednesday.

## WAR CRIMINAL'S WIDOW APPEALS ORDER BARRING HER FROM ITALY

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Describing herself in an open letter as "a 63-year-old woman that Italian democracy has no reason to fear," the widow of Nazi war criminal Herbert Kappler has appealed to President Francesco Cossiga to allow her to enter Italy.

Annaliese Kappler, a resident of West Germany, is promoting a book she wrote about her late husband, an SS colonel accused of wartime atrocities.

An order barring her from entering Italy was issued Oct. 18 by Interior Minister Antonio Geva. He acted on the advice of Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

She had planned to launch the Italian edition of her book at a news conference here on Oct. 20. The date coincided with solemn observances, by Italian Jews and former resistance fighters, of the 50th anniversary of the racial laws promulgated by Mussolini's fascist regime.

Excerpts from the book published in Italian newspapers left little doubt that it is an apologia for Kappler and for the Nazi occupation of Italy in general.

The Kappler widow stresses a sensational incident -- when she smuggled her husband out of a military prison hospital in Rome in 1977. Wasted by cancer, he was concealed in a suitcase.

"Was it a serious crime to have helped my husband escape from Rome to enable him to die

at home with his family?" the widow wrote.

Herbert Kappler was held responsible for, among other things, ordering the massacre of scores of Roman residents, in reprisal for a resistance attack on a Nazi patrol.

"I wanted to come to Rome, but I did not mean to provoke anyone," his widow said in the open letter. "I understand and profoundly feel the grief of the many people struck by the horrible war, and I respect, and have always done, the memory of their loved ones."

She begged Cossiga to annul "the too harsh condemnation by which the Italian government declared me to be an undesirable."

## CANADIAN SAID TO BE OLDEST JEW IN WORLD, DIES AT 113

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- Joseph Joffre died at Maimonides Hospital here Monday at the age of 113. He was possibly the oldest living Jew and one of the oldest men in the world.

He succumbed to what were described as natural causes. "He was lucid until the very last moment," said Minny Greenblatt, the youngest of his 15 children.

"I console myself with the fact that he died with dignity and lived a full life," she said.

Joffre said he was born on March 10, 1875, in Libau, Latvia, then part of the Czarist empire. But his birth date was not verified.

"He was never registered because in Russia in 1875, a Jewish child was never considered worth registering," his daughter said. But she said his birth was recorded at the local synagogue.

According to Joffre, he arrived in Canada in 1893, having previously earned a doctorate in chemistry in Germany and studied in London where he was ordained a rabbi.

If correct, Joffre, at age 18, already held a Ph.D. and rabbinical ordination.

He worked in Canadian hospitals as a chemist and founded an artificial limb company in Ottawa.

There he met a fellow immigrant from Latvia, Sarah Miller. They wed in 1912, starting a marriage that ended 60 years later with her death at age 86.

Joffre served as a medical officer with the Canadian army in Europe during World War I.

Afterwards, he settled in Montreal where he founded two chemical companies.

According to his family, Joffre was never ill nor was he ever hospitalized until 10 months ago.

He is survived by four of his children, 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Until a few years ago he participated in an annual 20-mile hike around Montreal known as the "March to Jerusalem." It is held in May by the Jewish community to mark the anniversary of Israel's independence.

## ALIYAH SO FAR SAME AS 1987 LEVEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 8 (JTA) -- A total of 9,220 immigrants arrived in Israel during the first nine months of 1988, about the same in the corresponding period of 1987, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported Monday.

Emigrants from the Soviet Union numbered 1,570, a slight increase over the previous year. But a 43 percent rise was reported in emigration from Argentina.