

# 16TH EGGED BUS PASSENGER DIES OF INJURIES FROM JULY 6 ATTACK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 19 (JTA) -- A 16th passenger succumbed Tuesday night to injuries sustained in the July 6 Egged bus disaster.

Tova Meiman, a 19-year-old soldier from Or Yehuda, died at Sheba government hospital in Tel Hashomer. She had been in a coma since the accident.

Her death followed by hours that of Rita Levine, a 39-year-old American lawyer from Philadelphia, who was the 15th victim of the terrorist attack. Levine died earlier Tuesday at Hadassah University Hospital in Ein Kerem.

Levine's spinal cord was severed when the bus plunged into a ravine, overturned and caught fire two weeks ago, after an Arab aboard grabbed the steering wheel.

Fourteen of the passengers, including two Canadians, died immediately in the crash. Meiman and Levine are the only fatalities so far among the 27 injured.

The wounded included the bus driver and the Arab perpetrator, a resident of the Gaza Strip who is in police custody.

Levine, who was contemplating aliyah, was on a six-month leave from her job in Philadelphia to study Israeli law and Hebrew.

She was being treated in the orthopedics department at Hadassah University Hospital, where doctors said she was making satisfactory progress, though paralyzed from the waist down.

Levine was getting about in a wheelchair, chatted with friends and sounded cheerful when interviewed by Israel Radio a few days ago.

She told the interviewer that the bus disaster, attributed to the 19-month-old Palestinian uprising, did not change her mind about settling in Israel.

But recently she complained of breathing difficulties and her condition deteriorated suddenly, surprising her doctors. They gave respiratory complications as the cause of Levine's death.

Her body was to be flown to Philadelphia for burial Wednesday night.

persuading the Senate to delay a vote on the measure Tuesday.

The White House was said to be concerned that additional restrictions imposed on the already limited U.S.-PLO dialogue would hinder progress toward peace between Israelis and Palestinians, a view shared by AJCongress and UAHC.

On Wednesday, four senators met with top administration officials to work out compromise language that would make the bill acceptable to both Helms and the White House.

The revised language prohibits U.S. talks "with any representative of the PLO unless or until the president concludes and advises the Congress that he has determined that the representative did not directly participate in or conspire in the planning or execution of a terrorist activity which resulted in the death or kidnapping of an American citizen."

## Would 'Destroy' Shamir Peace Plan

The issue surfaced in the Senate three weeks after the revelation that the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, Robert Pelletreau, had met with Salah Khalaf, a top PLO official also known as Abu Iyad.

Khalaf founded the extremist Black September terrorist organization held responsible for the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympic Games in 1972.

He was also implicated in the 1973 killing of the U.S. ambassador to Sudan, Cleo Noel Jr. And he was indicted in Italy last month on charges that he helped supply PLO arms to the Red Brigades.

But Henry Siegman, executive director of AJCongress, said Tuesday that the Helms amendment would "effectively destroy" Shamir's plan to allow Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to elect representatives to conduct peace talks with Israel.

"If we wish the PLO leadership to play a constructive role, by permitting the elections to go forward, then the very last thing we should be saying to the PLO is that, no matter what they do and no matter how constructive a role they play, we will never raise the level of our dialogue with them," Siegman said.

## Terrorists Shouldn't Be 'Rewarded'

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of UAHC, the congregational arm of Reform Judaism in the United States, declared that the Helms amendment, "however well-intentioned, would represent an additional obstacle on a road already littered with dangers.

"If adopted, it would make it all but impossible for the American negotiations with the PLO in Tunis to continue," Schindler said.

"Outside pressures such as the Helms amendment and the Likud effort to impose conditions on the peace process will serve only to make it easier for those who seek to torpedo the Israeli initiative," he said.

Ira Silverman, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, said in a telephone interview that the amendment was "not helpful" and would "derail" the peace process.

"The U.S.-PLO dialogue can be useful at this stage in urging the PLO to cooperate, to partici-

# BILL LIMITING U.S. CONTACTS WITH PLO OPPOSED BY SOME JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, July 19 (JTA) -- At least two mainstream Jewish groups joined the Bush administration this week in lobbying the Senate against a proposed measure that would bar U.S. contacts with Palestine Liberation Organization officials considered to be associated with terrorist acts.

Both the American Jewish Congress and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations said that in doing so, they were seeking to preserve Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's troubled peace initiative.

Other Jewish groups actively supported the measure, which was introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) as an amendment to a bill authorizing funds for the State Department.

The amendment had strong bipartisan support on Capitol Hill. But it was strongly opposed by the Bush administration, which succeeded in

pate in the Israeli elections initiative," Silverman said. "It does not need to be burdened at this moment with additional baggage."

The Helms amendment was backed, however, by a number of groups, including the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Washington-based pro-Israel lobby.

B'nai B'rith International strongly supported the amendment in a statement issued Tuesday.

Daniel Mariaschin, director of public affairs, asserted that "terrorists deserve no place at negotiating tables. They should certainly not be rewarded for their crimes with recognition as official interlocutors of the United States government."

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said in a statement Tuesday that limiting talks with the PLO could be "a useful reminder that the United States cannot advance the peace process by talking to individuals who are directly involved in terrorist acts."

Milton Shapiro, president of the Zionist Organization of America, criticized the organizations that have opposed the Helms Amendment.

In a statement issued Wednesday, he said their actions "imply support for a policy that accepts the PLO, does the cause of justice severe harm" and undermines Israel's efforts to seek "moderate voices among the Palestinian people so that a peaceful solution can be found."

#### SHARON FEUD WITH SHAMIR DAMPENS HOPE OF RESOLVING COALITION CRISIS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) — A hostile exchange between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Ariel Sharon, the minister of industry and trade, offered further evidence Wednesday of a rapid deterioration of amity and civility at the highest echelons of the Likud, Israel's largest political party.

News of the bitter words dismayed those members of the Labor Party, Likud's coalition partners, who are trying to save the unity government and Shamir's peace initiative.

Labor has threatened to end its seven-month-old alliance with Likud, unless Shamir overrides the harsh constraints and preconditions imposed on his peace plan by the Likud Central Committee on July 5.

They represented a victory for Sharon and his hard-line allies, Minister of Construction and Housing David Levy and Yitzhak Moda'i, leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing, who is minister of economics and planning.

Sharon, the least inhibited of Shamir's rivals, spoke rudely to the prime minister at a conclave of Likud ministers Wednesday.

"I have contempt for your words. I laugh at your words," he told the 73-year-old Likud leader.

A livid Shamir replied, "We'll see who laughs last." Sharon, who made world headlines Monday by publicly calling for the assassination of Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat, just continued to laugh.

Shamir, nevertheless, bowed again to pressure from the diehard ministers led by Sharon.

He agreed not to submit any compromise proposals at next Sunday's Cabinet meeting with respect to the peace initiative and promised to discuss any proposals brought by Labor with the full complement of Likud ministers.

Shamir has been accused by Sharon, Levy and Moda'i of ignoring their views in favor of ministers who agree with the premier, such as Moshe Nissim, Dan Meridor and Ehud Olmert.

They also charged that he colluded with Labor in an attempt to have the Cabinet vote last Sunday on a statement that would have negated the Central Committee's new conditions.

Labor ministers convened Wednesday, their zeal for a break with Likud apparently diminished by a realistic appraisal of their party's current standing with the electorate.

Most Laborites hope Likud will come up with a face-saving formula. But that seems unlikely in view of the pressures on Shamir.

#### ISRAELI SEPHARDIC LEADERS DISCUSS PEACE PLAN WITH MUBARAK IN EGYPT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) — Two Sephardic leaders from Israel met Wednesday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who had invited them to Egypt to discuss the peace process.

Interior Minister Arye Deri, a member of the ultra-Orthodox Shas party, and Ovadia Yosef, the former Sephardic chief rabbi of Israel, met with Mubarak near the port city of Alexandria.

Deri presented the Egyptian leader with a letter of good will from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The letter is understood to have contained a general reaffirmation of Israel's commitment to the peace process.

Yosef stated that all parties must be prepared to take risks and make sacrifices for the sake of peace.

Mubarak is said to have affirmed Egypt's commitment. But he expressed dismay over the hard-line constraints on Shamir's plan recently adopted by his Likud party.

The Israelis, who met with several other Egyptian officials, have been trying to convince their skeptical hosts that Shamir is sincere in his peace offers to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Deri reportedly urged all of the Egyptian leaders he met with to exercise their influence with Palestinian moderates to give the Israeli plan a chance.

In addition to Mubarak, the Israeli interior minister had unscheduled meetings Tuesday in Cairo with two ranking Egyptian policy-makers, presidential aide Osama el-Baz and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid.

#### Peres Helmed Arrange Trip

Israeli journalists accompanying him said Deri tried, during his two-hour session with Baz to distinguish between Likud hard-liners who are trying to destroy the peace plan and the majority of Likud ministers who support it.

But Baz reportedly took a very dim view of the hard-line group's success in pushing through their tough new conditions at the July 5 Likud Central Committee meeting.

Meguid told Israeli reporters after meeting with Deri that while he thinks Shamir's peace plan has merit, the premier's assurances that it remains unchanged and unaffected by Likud's resolutions are not sufficient to allay fears to the contrary.

Informed sources in Israel said the trip to Egypt by Yosef and Deri was arranged through the good offices of Vice Premier Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party.

## LAWMAKERS QUESTION U.S. FUNDING OF THREE ORTHODOX SCHOOLS IN ISRAEL

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, July 19 (JTA) -- Key members of Congress have placed on hold \$8.4 million in funds for Jewish institutions in Israel, including three Orthodox institutions whose religious nature appears to trouble the lawmakers.

The funds for the Jewish institutions are part of \$35 million budgeted for the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program, or ASHA, run by the State Department's Agency for International Development.

ASHA rules prohibit funds from being used to train persons for religious pursuits or construct facilities intended for worship or religious instruction.

The hold, which extends to the entire \$35 million program, was ordered last week by Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.), chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, and Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.), chairman of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

"We have got to weed out institutions that should not be there," Obey told The Washington Post last Friday. "I want to expand the program. But I want to get those religious-related items out. It gets the program in trouble."

But an AID spokesperson maintained that funding for the Orthodox institutions would not violate ASHA rules.

The ASHA program was in the news in the winter of 1987-88, when Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) gained Senate passage of an \$8 million ASHA grant to build schools for North African Jews in France run by Ozar Hatorah.

In the face of negative publicity, Inouye later asked that the funding be rescinded.

### Ties To West Bank Suggested

Attention is now focused on proposed grants to the Sha'alvim Teachers College in the Ayalon Valley, the Machon Alte Institute in Safed and the Or Hachayim Girls College in Bnei Brak.

Both Sha'alvim, which is affiliated with Touro College in New York, and Machon Alte, run by the Lubavitch movement, are slated to receive \$1.5 million to construct dormitories. Or Hachayim would receive \$500,000 to build classrooms.

Or Hachayim's purpose is "to raise the economic and cultural levels of Israel's Sephardic population to that of Israelis from Western countries," the group stated in its AID application.

Before Obey and Hamilton placed the hold, they wrote Mark Edelman, AID's acting administrator, to complain about "the apparent increased politicization" of the ASHA program.

Their July 5 letter was also signed by Rep. Silvio Conte (R-Mass.), the ranking Republican on the House Appropriations Committee, and Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), the ranking Republican on Hamilton's subcommittee.

The four did not name specific institutions, but complained about the "geographic distribution" of the proposed grants. Obey told the Post he was concerned that the Sha'alvim Teachers College places "teachers in new settlements in the West Bank."

U.S. government funds can be used in the administered territories only to "assist the indigenous Palestinian population," according to a statement issued by the State Department last year.

Rabbi Philip Singer, chairman of American Friends of Sha'alvim Educational Center, said Wednesday in a telephone interview from Brooklyn that of 120 Sha'alvim graduates, only five to seven work in West Bank settlements, and they found the jobs "on their own."

The college is located just inside the "Green Line" separating Israel proper from the West Bank.

### Several Less Controversial Grants

Some American Jewish groups also have expressed concern about the ASHA program, because they believe it, in effect, provides government aid to religious groups.

Obey said in a telephone interview Wednesday that when he met with leaders of major Jewish groups in New York three weeks ago, they asked "what could be done to clean out that program so that it would be less of an intellectual embarrassment."

Less controversial AID funding requests in Israel, also on hold, include \$1.5 million to the Israel Arts and Science Academy this year, and \$1 million next year, to construct dormitories.

The academy is a \$1.5 million philanthropic project of the Chicago-based Music Foundation. The Washington Post made a point of noting that the foundation's chairman, Robert Asher, also chairs the powerful American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

But in an interview with the Post, Asher said he did not use AIPAC influence in gaining support for the program. "I didn't approach people saying, 'Listen, this is the chairman of AIPAC calling.' I don't do that at all," he told the Post.

## TWO PALESTINIANS GET LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER OF SOLDIER IN NABLUS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) -- Two Palestinian youths were sentenced to life imprisonment Wednesday by a military court in Nablus for killing Israeli soldier Benny Meisner earlier this year while he was on patrol in the West Bank city.

Ibrahim Taktuk and Samir Na'anish drew the maximum sentence for dropping a building block on Meisner's head from a rooftop in the Nablus casbah.

Four other Palestinians, convicted of being accomplices, were given 15-year sentences each.

The homes of all six were demolished immediately after their arrest by the security forces several months ago.

The prosecutor maintained that Meisner's murder was a more heinous crime than the stoning of a car in Dhahiriya village five years ago, in which an Israeli woman, Esther Ohana, was killed.

Since the perpetrators in that case received sentences of 11 to 13 years in prison, Meisner's murderers deserved harsher penalties, the prosecutor argued.

The court agreed on grounds that stoning Ohana's car was not premeditated murder, whereas the assault on Meisner was.

The Palestinian uprising, meanwhile, continued to take its almost daily toll.

A resident of Beit Lid village, in the Tul-karm region of the West Bank, was killed Wednesday morning in a clash with Israel Defense Force soldiers.

## HADASSAH PRESIDENT CALLS ON WOMEN TO GET INVOLVED IN ABORTION ISSUE

By Ellen Bernstein  
Atlanta Jewish Times

ATLANTA, July 19 (JTA) — In an unusually strong statement, Hadassah's national president has called on the organization's membership to fight any attempts to restrict women's access to abortion or birth control.

In a speech at the 75th annual convention here, Carmela Kalmanson quoted from the recent Supreme Court decision in the abortion case of Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services.

"The Supreme Court has opened the door to a new threat to personal freedom," Kalmanson told the 2,500 delegates in her keynote address Sunday. "The right of every woman to make choices in her life is based solely upon an individual's moral and ethical values."

"The real questions, my friends, is who makes the choice: the government or the woman? At Hadassah, we stand with the woman."

Kalmanson's emotion-filled oratory was met by rousing cheers and sustained applause. For an organization that has thus far trod lightly on the American political scene, a strong directive issued Tuesday by the national board to the 385,000 members appeared to be a bold move designed to appeal to a younger constituency.

The directive, an "Action Alert," urged the 385,000 members to appeal to local politicians, align with pro-choice organizations and oppose any attempt to limit or deny state funds for abortion.

Other issues dealt with during the four-day national convention in Atlanta that ended Wednesday included Soviet Jewry, Zionism, Israeli-Arab relations and Hadassah's health care work in Israel carried out through the Hadassah Medical Organization, based in Jerusalem.

Treasurer Bess Rothbaum reported Sunday that \$68 million was raised for 1988-89 programs, which included the Hadassah Medical Organization, the Jewish National Fund, Young Judaea and youth aliyah.

On Tuesday evening, Hadassah bestowed the Henrietta Szold Award honoring "guardians of our human rights" to Ambassador Max Kampelman, former head of the U.S. delegation to nuclear disarmament talks with the Soviet Union, and to Renee Epelbaum, founder of Argentina's human rights group, the Mothers of the Plaza.

## JUDGE PREVENTS AVITAL SHARANSKY FROM TESTIFYING FOR WEDTECH LAWYER

NEW YORK, July 19 (JTA) — A federal prosecutor in New York on Tuesday prevented Avital Sharansky from testifying as a character witness on behalf of attorney E. Robert Wallace, who is facing racketeering charges in the Wedtech trial.

Prosecutor Baruch Weiss blocked Sharansky's testimony that Wallace, a personal friend of former Attorney General Edwin Meese, was instrumental in obtaining the 1986 release of her husband, Natan, from a Soviet prison. Weiss argued that retelling her husband's story would sway the jury.

His argument provoked heated debate in the courtroom. Sharansky told Judge Richard Owen, while the jury was out of the courtroom, that Wallace had ceaselessly lobbied government officials on her husband's behalf.

She said she approached Wallace in 1982, that she was able to contact him at any hour and that he was always willing to help. She said Wallace asked for help from Meese and former National Security Adviser Robert MacFarlane.

Natan Sharansky, who then went by the name Anatoly, was freed in February 1986 after nine years' imprisonment, following an international campaign led by his wife.

Owen had said he would decide Wednesday morning if Avital Sharansky could testify, but the couple flew home Tuesday night, less than 24 hours after they arrived.

Avital Sharansky said she was worried about her mother, who is dying. Svetlana Stiglitz suffered a broken hip, heart attacks and a stroke in Moscow. She was airlifted from Moscow in May, in an international humanitarian gesture.

Wallace is on trial with two former Wedtech executives on charges of illegally diverting \$525,000 from the military contractor, which is located in the South Bronx.

Several government officials, principally in New York, have been sent to prison as a result of their involvement with obtaining government contracts for Wedtech.

## ARGENTINE ALIYAH TO BE SMALLER THAN SOME ISRAELIS HAD EXPECTED

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) — The expected mass aliyah of Jews from Argentina this year will not materialize, according to Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky, who returned Tuesday from a visit to that country.

Shilansky, a Likud leader, admitted that Argentine Jews did not respond to the words of his mentor, the late Ze'ev Jabotinsky, who exhorted Jews to liquidate the Diaspora before it liquidates them.

Concern over the recent change of political leadership in Argentina, complicated by severe economic hardships created by four-digit inflation, raised hopes among Israeli officials that the largely middle-class Argentine Jews would pour into Israel.

However, Argentine Jews have become complacent since the election of Carlos Menem, Shilansky said. "They think that it won't be as terrible as they thought."

Shilansky, who attended Menem's inauguration, predicted that 3,500 Argentine Jews will come to Israel this year, compared to 1,500 last year. Far greater numbers had been anticipated.

## STUDENTS TO PROTEST AT AUSCHWITZ

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, July 19 (JTA) — A protest demonstration by European Jewish students is being planned for Sunday outside the controversial Carmelite convent at Auschwitz.

The students, numbering about 300, will march around the grounds of the former death camp, registering their outrage at the continuing presence of the Carmelite convent, according to Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress.

The protest is being organized by the European Union of Jewish Students, a WJC affiliate.

The demonstration will come nine days after seven American Jews were reportedly kicked and beaten when they entered the convent grounds to stage a protest.