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**FLOW OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL
WAS HALTED, BUT REASON IS UNCLEAR**

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, July 15 (JTA) -- The emigration of Ethiopian Jews bound for Israel, which had been proceeding since last fall at a rate of about 500 a month, has been halted in recent weeks, Israeli officials have confirmed.

The suspension comes at a time when thousands of Ethiopian Jews have piled into the capital city of Addis Ababa, hoping to receive permission to join family and friends in Israel.

The vast majority of the Jews left in Ethiopia -- as many as 15,000 people -- are now living in miserable conditions in Addis Ababa.

They have poured into the capital from their native Gondar region in recent months, as fighting between the government of Mengistu Haile Mariam and rebel armies has shifted, making roads to the capital passable.

The emigration of Ethiopian Jews has accelerated since November, when Israel and Ethiopia restored diplomatic ties and signed an agreement allowing for reunification of families on a humanitarian basis.

The reason for the recent suspension of the emigration is unclear, but three main explanations have been offered.

The most straightforward reason for the slowdown is that Mengistu wished to avoid embarrassment during the meeting of the Organization of African Unity, which was held last week in Addis Ababa.

Israeli and American Jewish officials say Mengistu may have feared incurring the wrath of the hundreds of hard-line, anti-Israel African leaders who arrived in the city for the meeting. They say it would have been difficult for him to hide the exodus to Israel.

Concern About Non-Jews

A second explanation for the suspension is rising concern among both Mengistu and Israeli officials that non-Jews are using the Israeli channel as a way of escaping Ethiopia.

Meir Joffe, Israel's ambassador to Ethiopia, was quoted by The New York Times as saying that Israel had been "alarmed" by the fact that non-Jews were attempting to immigrate to Israel.

Joffe was quoted as saying the decision to halt the emigration was made jointly by the Ethiopian and Israeli governments.

But William Recant, director of the American Association for Ethiopian Jews, one of the relief agencies caring for the Ethiopian Jews in Addis Ababa, said he did not believe Israel had anything to do with suspending the flow of emigres.

"This is not consistent with what we have been told in the past," Recant said Sunday. He said Israeli officials were aware that the screening process for prospective immigrants "has been a careful one."

The third and most troublesome explanation for a halt in emigration is that the Ethiopian Jews are being held hostage to Mengistu's demands for Israeli military equipment.

It has been widely reported in the Israeli and American press that Mengistu traveled to Israel on July 4 and 5 to meet with Prime Minis-

ter Yitzhak Shamir and request weapons from the Israelis, in order to prop up his embattled regime.

The Israelis have long been caught between the Ethiopian dictator's linkage of military cooperation to Jewish emigration, on the one hand, and the U.S. government's revulsion at the massive casualties Mengistu's regime has been inflicting on the civilian populations of areas controlled by rebel forces.

The Washington Jewish Week reported last week that Israel had sold cluster bombs to Ethiopia as recently as last year and provided military expertise to forces protecting Mengistu.

The paper cited a memorandum, based on information from the Pentagon, that was written in February by J. Stephen Morrison, a staff member of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa.

According to the Washington Jewish Week, the congressional memo alleges that Israel provided Ethiopia with 100 cluster bombs in 1989, possibly through Argentina and Chile, and that 10 to 20 Israeli military advisers participated in training members of Mengistu's elite Palace Guard.

It also said that Ethiopia had pressed Israel to provide more cluster bombs, but that the Israelis had deferred because of U.S. pressure.

Cluster Bomb Sales Denied

But that report was disputed by Israeli officials and pro-Israeli groups in Washington.

The Israeli Embassy spokeswoman, Ruth Yaron, denied Friday that Israel had sold cluster bombs to Ethiopia and said there had not been "military cooperation between Ethiopia and Israel."

And, according to a pro-Israel lobbyist, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee has received assurances from top Pentagon officials and Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, that the United States does not believe that Israel supplied cluster bombs to Ethiopia.

Recant of AAEJ said he had received similar assurances.

Another pro-Israel lobbyist said he believed Israel would not be "stupid enough" to have supplied cluster bombs to Ethiopia that were made with U.S. technology.

That would directly violate U.S. law and could lead to an end to U.S. foreign aid.

But the lobbyist said Israel could have supplied cluster bombs that it made "independent of U.S. technology." Israel apparently began work on its own cluster bomb, after the United States suspended cluster bomb sales to Israel in 1982.

The lobbyist pointed out that one of Israel's main purposes in Ethiopia "is to get Jews out of situations in danger and into Israel. They will do just about anything within the bounds of the real world. And I didn't say in good taste or good government."

The sale of cluster bombs is of particular U.S. concern, because of the large numbers of civilian casualties they are capable of causing. Cluster bombs contain a number of smaller bombs that are scattered over a wide area, dramatically expanding the range of a conventional bomb.

(JTA correspondent Howard Rosenberg in Washington contributed to this report.)

AS ASSAD AND MUBARAK MEET IN EGYPT, WORD OF NEW PLO INITIATIVE SURFACES By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 15 (JTA) -- Leading activists of the Palestine Liberation Organization are working on two new peace initiatives, according to a report Sunday on Israel Television.

The report coincided with Syrian President Hafez Assad's first visit to Egypt since its late president, Anwar Sadat, made his historic trip to Israel in November 1977. That move and the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty two years later prompted Damascus to break ties with Cairo.

The report on the Palestinian peace initiatives did not specify who is behind it or how seriously it is being taken in the Arab world.

But it reportedly has been drafted as a component of a comprehensive peace settlement between Israel and its Arab neighbors. In order to lend credibility to their plan, the Palestinians are seeking the support of Arab leaders throughout the region, Israel Television reported.

According to the report, one of the new initiatives will be a political manifesto to be signed by well-known Arab personalities, rather than by governments.

Another initiative would allow a delegation of prominent Israelis, including members of the Knesset, to visit Yemen, in order to look into the conditions of the remaining Jewish community there.

Initial contacts already have been made, according to the report, and Yemen hinted it would not reject the initiative.

In the Egyptian city of Alexandria, meanwhile, Assad told his host, President Hosni Mubarak, that it is necessary to accord the Soviets equal status to that of the Americans in the peace process.

Assad also asked Egypt to support his plan, which advocates that a key role be given the United Nations in any peace negotiations.

Few details of the two leaders' talks were available, as they were conducted in secrecy.

Although the Egyptian media welcomed Assad warmly, the two countries still seem to have different goals for this meeting. Whereas the Syrians underscored the need to find common ground regarding Israel, Egypt emphasized the need "to improve the atmosphere in the Arab world," particularly the sour relations between Syria and Iraq.

LEVY MAY MEET WITH BAKER IN AUGUST By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 15 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy is likely to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for the first time early in August, according to weekend reports here and in Washington.

Levy wrote to Baker at the end of last week, in response to a friendly letter from the secretary suggesting that they meet this week in Europe.

Levy, who suffered a mild heart attack June 14, backed out of the meeting, explaining that his doctors would not allow him to travel out of the country until the end of the month.

Israeli sources described Levy's letter as friendly and constructive. Levy and his aides are said to be both pleased and intrigued by Baker's apparent eagerness to make his acquaintance, and

the secretary's reference to Levy as a known problem-solver.

But the friendly interchange between the two leaders is said to have struck an apprehensive chord among some Likud hard-liners and among the rightist parties in the government coalition. They fear it may lead to concessions by Levy on the peace process.

FIRST CRACKS SEEN IN THE SUPPORT FOR SHARON EMERGENCY HOUSING PLAN By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 15 (JTA) -- Although the Israeli government has so far given Housing Minister Ariel Sharon the green light to take drastic measures to shore up the housing crisis, first cracks in that support could be seen Sunday.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai warned the Cabinet's ministerial absorption committee that the vast expense necessary to resolve the crisis might lead to a waste of "tremendous resources," similar to the vast expenses made in 1968 to build the Bar-Lev line of fortification along the Suez Canal, following the war of attrition.

Modai said that the government was still in the dark regarding the funding of the housing projects and the employment needs of the multitudes of new immigrants now coming to Israel, chiefly from the Soviet Union.

The absorption committee decided Sunday that beginning next month, immigrants will be housed temporarily in hotels, youth hostels, dormitories and kibbutz guest houses.

Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz said at the meeting that his ministry expects the arrival of some 20,000 immigrants every month beginning next month.

That translates into a demand for 7,000 new apartments every month, or 35,000 new housing units by end of the year, for new immigrants only, he said.

In the northern town of Carmiel, meanwhile, angry voices were raised Sunday when, by order of the Housing Ministry, a young forest was uprooted, to lay ground for a new neighborhood.

The mayor of Carmiel protested, saying the ministry could have found other sites, rather than "pull out the green lungs" of the town.

SOVIET ALIYAH INCLUDES MANY NON-JEWS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 15 (JTA) -- A quarter of the immigrants arriving from the Soviet Union are married to non-Jews, and millions more non-Jewish Soviet citizens may be entitled to Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return, according to Knesset member Michael Kleiner of Likud.

Kleiner, who chairs the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, maintains that in addition to the 2 million Jews believed to remain in the Soviet Union, there are 3 million non-Jews with at least one Jewish grandparent.

According to Kleiner, they would qualify for Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return. As a result, he believes the law should be changed.

The Orthodox-controlled Absorption Ministry, meanwhile, is concerned about the large number of Soviet Jews bringing non-Jewish family members with them to Israel.

According to Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz, many of these non-Jews are unwilling to convert and are interested in coming to Israel to escape difficult conditions in the Soviet Union.

**TALKS ON EAST GERMAN REPARATIONS
MUST STILL RESOLVE COMPLEX ISSUES**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 15 (JTA) -- The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany has called on East Germany to promptly implement its pledge to make just compensation to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

Dr. Israel Miller made that plea here last week during the biennial meeting of the New York-based Claims Conference's board of directors, which re-elected him president.

The board heard a report of the Claims Conference's first meeting with the East German government, which took place in East Berlin on June 25 and 26.

Miller reported that a number of "complex legal and financial issues" remain to be discussed by the two sides.

The talks began last month at the suggestion of East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maziere, who met with representatives of the Claims Conference on June 10, during a visit to New York. At that time, the East German leader reaffirmed his country's pledge to institute just compensation for material losses suffered by Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

The pledge was made at the inaugural session of the Volkskammer, East Germany's first freely elected parliament, on April 12.

Meanwhile, more than 80,000 Holocaust survivors have received grants totaling over \$250 million from the Claims Conference's Special Hardship Fund, which is financed by the West German government.

About 50,000 of the beneficiaries live in Israel.

Saul Kagan, executive director of the Claims Conference, said that thousands of new applications are being received from victims of Nazi persecution arriving here from the Soviet Union.

The board took note of major progress made toward securing legislative benefits and grants for social care programs for Nazi victims in Austria.

The Austrian government will allocate \$25 million in social insurance to institutions that assist frail, elderly survivors. In addition, the Jewish community in Vienna will receive funds to expand its old-age home.

**HAVEL CONDEMNS DEDICATION
OF MEMORIAL TO COLLABORATOR**

By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, July 15 (JTA) -- President Vaclav Havel has sharply condemned the unveiling of a memorial tablet honoring Nazi collaborator Josef Tiso, a Slovakian war criminal hanged after World War II.

Havel told a news conference here July 11 that he had been unaware of the unveiling, which took place July 8 at a former Roman Catholic teachers college in the Slovakian town of Banovce.

Tiso, a Catholic priest, was the first and only president of the Slovakian republic, a puppet state of about 4 million set up by Nazi Germany after it occupied and dismembered Czechoslovakia in 1939.

He converted the Catholic clerical party into a Nazi-type political movement which institutionalized anti-Semitism.

Havel's advisers were roundly criticized in the news media for not informing him of the un-

veiling, although it was reported by the official news agency, CTK.

Czechoslovak television commented that it was unconscionable to honor a war criminal responsible for the deportation and murder of 60,000 Jews, especially when no memorial for Holocaust victims exists in Slovakia.

Havel said he fully supports the erection of a monument in memory of Jews deported from Slovakia. Tens of thousands of Slovakian Jews were deported to extermination camps. Tiso's government paid fees to the Nazis for the right to loot their property.

The unveiling of the memorial to Tiso was accompanied by a solemn mass, at which the bishop of Nitra and the local Roman Catholic dean officiated.

The ceremony was viewed as the latest attempt to purge the clerical and separatist movement in Slovakia of guilt for its Nazi past, not by repentance but denial.

According to the movement, Tiso was a simple patriot forced by circumstances to act as he did and completely unaware of the fate that awaited Jewish deportees.

The unveiling of the Tiso memorial was denounced last Thursday in the newspaper Lidova Demokracie (People's Democracy), an organ of the Catholic Czech People's Party.

The independent daily Lidove Noviny (People's News) called the incident "an affront to all decent people."

**DUTCH HOLOCAUST MUSEUM WITHDRAWS
HUMAN HAIR FROM AUSCHWITZ EXHIBIT**

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, July 15 (JTA) -- The Netherlands War and Resistance Museum at Overloon has decided not to include human hair from Auschwitz victims in its exhibition of items from the death camp, which opened Saturday.

The hair was withdrawn after a flood of protests greeted announcement of the exhibition.

Museum Director Simon Temming said he wanted to display the hair, "because the public today needs very strong shocks to appreciate the horrors of Auschwitz."

At the same time, Temming wondered why people reacted so emotionally to the hair but not to the tin that once contained the deadly Zyklon B gas used in the Auschwitz gas chambers.

The refusal to display the hair garnered mixed reactions.

Annie Felsene Kupferschmidt, chairwoman of the Netherlands Auschwitz Committee, said she strongly opposed displaying the hair.

However, Judith Beloinfante, director of the Jewish Museum in Amsterdam, said that although her museum would never exhibit hair or other objects directly relating to the victims, visitors to the Overloon museum would be different from those visiting the Jewish museum, and it might be useful in order to let them know what happened in Auschwitz.

The Zyklon B canisters, along with chairs, tables, wooden beds and eating bowls from Auschwitz, have been given to the Overloon museum on permanent loan from the Polish State Museum at Auschwitz.

This is the first time so large a quantity of Auschwitz memorabilia has been relinquished by the Polish authorities. It was formally handed over by the Polish ambassador to Holland on opening day.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**THRIVING ORTHODOX MOVEMENT SPLIT
BETWEEN STRICT AND MORE PERMISSIVE
[Part 2 Of A Series]**

By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, July 15 (JTA) -- Orthodox Judaism as a movement has flourished in recent years, with the number of congregations mushrooming, membership increasing and a new sense of vitality and outreach.

But such new-found fortune has brought with it factionalism, disunity and ideological discord, with sides being determined by how liberal or how traditional one's observance is.

The conflict has become particularly evident within the modern Orthodox movement, a form of Orthodoxy that attempts to coexist with the secular world, rather than shun it.

Within modern Orthodoxy, a generational confrontation seems to be under way. Older rabbis, straining to preserve the tenets of a liberal Orthodoxy that came of age in the 1940s and 1950s, are confronting younger, more recently ordained rabbis who embrace a more traditional form of Orthodoxy.

Peer pressure within the Rabbinical Council of America, the rabbinical arm of modern Orthodoxy, appears to be very strong.

Rabbis who 20 years ago either ignored or treaded lightly on such issues as mixed dancing, women covering their heads, shatnes (the prohibited mixture of linen and wool) and the necessity of a hashkachah (kashrut certification) on cheeses, fish products and paper goods are now much more outspokenly right-wing.

A number of sociological factors have contributed to the rightward swing, according to a 1989 study conducted by Professors Steven Cohen and Samuel Heilman.

Traditionalist Pressure From New York

"We have seen that traditionalist tendencies are growing more pronounced in many areas. This is a time in America that is hospitable, if not conducive, to these tendencies," the study says, noting that ethnic consciousness and disenchantment with secularism are on the rise nationally.

Orthodoxy, and traditionalist Orthodoxy in particular, once thought to be declining in America, has been revitalized by the flourishing yeshiva and day school system, the growth in the ba'alei teshuvah (newly Orthodox) movement and the increasing political and moral influence of Orthodoxy in Israel.

Geography may also explain the strength of more traditionalist elements in Orthodoxy. Rabbis with pulpits outside New York complain that the right-wing pressure is coming predominantly from New York, where, they say, it's far easier to be strictly observant.

"It's easier to be Orthodox in New York by osmosis," said Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkrantz of Stamford, Conn. "Rabbis in Brooklyn and Queens have ready-made congregations that are already consistently observant. But once you're out of the confines of New York, your Orthodox constituency is minimally observant. These Orthodox Jews need Orthodox leadership, too," he said.

In 1988, a group calling itself the Fellowship of Traditional Orthodox Rabbis was formed in reaction to right-wing pressure within the RCA.

"There was a feeling of isolation that a fair number of rabbis had within the RCA," explained Rabbi Juda Mintz, an FTOR member whose syna-

gogue, B'nai Torah in Atlanta, does not have a mechitzah separating men from women.

"They did not subscribe to the Conservative ideology nor were they accepted by the Orthodox movement," he said.

The FTOR advocates mutual dialogue among the major movements of Judaism; supports women's prayer groups, such as Women of the Wall; favors cooperation with the Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist movements on handling conversions; and advocates a liberal Orthodoxy that will tolerate synagogues without mechitzahs.

Separation Of Sexes A Key Issue

The organization's formation was precipitated in the summer of 1985 by a move undertaken by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Orthodox Judaism's congregational arm, to eject those member congregations that did not have mechitzahs, said Rabbi Gilbert Shoham of Kansas City, executive director of the FTOR.

Recently, a letter was sent to all RCA members inquiring whether they are in any way affiliated with the FTOR. The implication was that such affiliation would be grounds for expulsion from the rabbinic group. About half the members of the FTOR are members of the RCA.

Both the Orthodox Union and the RCA acknowledge their hostility to the FTOR. Rabbi Pinchas Stolper, executive vice president of the O.U., described it as "a tiny fringe group of peripheral congregations" that finds itself out of place as the Orthodox movement becomes "more consistently Orthodox."

"A congregation that refuses to cooperate on the mechitzah issue is generally a congregation that does not have a future as an Orthodox congregation," Stolper said. "Mechitzah has become a weather vane of whether the congregation takes its Orthodoxy seriously or not."

Modern Orthodox rabbis are deeply concerned about the fissures developing within the RCA and the O.U.

"There must be more understanding," Rabbi David Stavsky of Temple Beth Jacob in Columbus, Ohio, remarked at the RCA's annual convention last month in the Catskills. "There are too many personal power plays and agendas, and not enough emphasis on ahavas Israel," or love of fellow Jews, he said.

"A certain religious civility must exist," said Rabbi Jeffrey Bienenfeld of Young Israel of St. Louis.

'Center Is Being Squeezed'

But Rabbi David Sladowsky of the Forest Park Jewish Center in Glendale, N.Y., feels that the tightening up of Orthodox standards is a positive thing. "The parameters have moved, but the principles of modern Orthodoxy have not been violated," he said.

By defining the standards of the modern Orthodox movement, he said, rabbis will now know where the middle is and how far they can deviate from that point without overstepping the boundaries of halachah itself.

The challenge for modern Orthodoxy appears to be finding a happy medium between two equally authentic halachic traditions: the machmirim, those who are strict, and the maikilim, those who are more permissive.

But as Rabbi Avraham Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, N.Y., said, "Being in the center is a very difficult position these days. The center is being squeezed; the middle is shrinking."