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**EMIGRATION OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS
APPEARS AGAIN TO HAVE STALLED**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- Once again, it appears that the emigration of Jews from Ethiopia to Israel has been stalled, though the exact extent and nature of the delay remains unclear.

Uri Gordon, chairman of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, told the Israeli daily Ma'ariv that no Jews have been allowed to leave for Israel from the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa for the past three weeks.

But Will Recant, executive director of the American Association for Ethiopian Jews, took issue with the report from Israel, calling it "untrue."

His organization "knows of 53 Jews that came to Israel this week," he said.

He said, however, that it was true that no Ethiopian Jews have been permitted to initiate the immigration process since mid-June, when the emigration reportedly ground to a halt for a period of time.

Recant said that only 4,000 of the 15,000 Ethiopian Jews in Addis Ababa were in the bureaucratic pipeline when the applications were halted.

"The people we have seen come out since the middle of June were all in the process at the time that things stopped," Recant said.

Earlier this summer, it was thought that the number of Ethiopian Jews allowed to leave for Israel would again reach 500 per month, which had been the average before the sharp drop in mid-June.

Numbers Far Lower

But the numbers have been far lower, with well under 200 allowed out in both July and August.

An unnamed Israeli tourist in Addis Ababa, quoted Thursday by Ma'ariv, reported that sickness and poor sanitation had in recent weeks killed some 120 Jews waiting for their aliyah, mostly among children and the elderly.

The tourist said that the mood among Ethiopian Jews was one of bitter despair, and that many were accusing Israel of abandoning them.

Recant of AAEJ confirmed that at least 97 had died over the past 60 days.

In New York, an official of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee said his organization is doing all it can to provide medical care to the Ethiopian Jewish population.

"We have about five doctors, and seven or eight nurses who are seeing 200 people a day in our clinic," said Michael Schneider, executive vice president of JDC.

He said that an additional 70 Ethiopians were being trained to go to the homes of Ethiopian Jews to see if they need medical attention, and that a pediatrician specializing in infectious diseases was expected to arrive shortly from Israel.

"My impression is that the death rate among those in Addis is probably higher than normal," Schneider said. "Don't forget that they made a very rigorous journey to an unfamiliar urban

environment."

The Jews have been waiting in Addis Ababa for permission to emigrate, after fleeing civil strife in their native Gondar region.

JDC has also been providing the population of approximately 15,000 with cash, household goods and food. And officials of the Jewish Agency and Israeli Embassy have been on location to minister to the Jews.

When asked if the expansion of the medical facilities in Addis Ababa meant that Israeli officials did not see any hope of getting Ethiopian Jews out soon, Schneider replied, "We can only deal with facts on the ground. Even if movement took place fast, this is a substantial population that needs a great deal of care."

Meanwhile, the Eritrean rebels, who are at war with the Ethiopian government, have accused Israel of helping the government build a strategically important air base on an island in the straits of Bab el-Mandeb. The rebel radio said this base would enable Israel to maintain a military presence close to the straits.

The radio report also charged that Israeli advisers assisted the Ethiopian army in launching attacks on rebel targets, though Israel has repeatedly denied any military assistance to Ethiopia.

(JTA staff writer Allison Kaplan in New York contributed to this report.)

**EAST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
SAYS PLO TERRORISTS ORDERED OUT**

By David Kantor

BONN, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- The Defense Ministry in East Berlin said Wednesday that 31 officers of the Palestine Liberation Organization who had been enrolled in a course for teaching terrorist tactics have been ordered to leave the country.

The ministry also said the training program, performed by the "National People's Army," had been stopped.

But their departures came many months after East German officials declared that the country had ceased training PLO terrorists. The new admissions point out a profound lie.

Two weeks ago, the East German defense minister, Rainer Eppelmann, conceded on a West German television program that PLO officers were still being trained in terrorist tactics, including the bombing of buildings, explosives handling and operating in small units.

After East Germans began forcing profound changes on their country, the country's last Communist prime minister, Hans Modrow, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in December that the practice had been stopped.

It now appears that Modrow's account was patently false.

As Eppelmann confirmed, the training programs continued all along, including after the April 1990 installment of the new Christian Democratic government.

Last week, the Jewish community in Germany sharply protested against the training program, calling it a scandal. Community leaders urged Eppelmann to immediately terminate the training program for terrorists who were preparing operations against Jews and Israelis.

PLO PLEDGES HELP ON GREEK HOSTAGES AS EX-PREMIER PLANS TRIP TO BAGHDAD

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization has pledged to do anything in its power to help evacuate Greek nationals from Iraq and Kuwait.

The offer was conveyed by the PLO diplomatic representative in Athens, Abdallah al-Abdallah, to the secretary of the Communist Party of Greece, Grigoris Farakos, whom he visited Wednesday at his office.

The PLO official said his organization was opposed in principle to foreign occupation of any country, and expressed hope that the United Nations would act so that all U.N. Security Council resolutions on occupation of foreign lands such as "Palestine" and Cyprus would be applied.

In a related development, former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, head of the opposition Panhellenic Socialist Movement, is planning a trip to Baghdad either Friday or at the latest Sunday.

He is leaving on a peace initiative aimed at freeing Western hostages, the daily Eleftherotypia reported.

European leaders and the Socialist International have been briefed about Papandreou's initiative, the newspaper said.

The Socialist party confirmed there was such a plan but that up to now nothing had been decided, Eleftherotypia said. However, that did not rule out that something might happen in the next few days.

The same sources said that before Papandreou makes his trip, he will have to have the approval of at least one European leader so that he will not be contradicting the position of other European countries on the crisis.

It seems that Papandreou will be relying heavily for his efforts on PLO chief Yasir Arafat, with whom he has very good personal relations.

UNDER THREAT OF IRAQI ATTACK COMES DISPOSABLE GAS MASKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- Among the various creative enterprises that have started up in Israel ever since the country has been under threat of an Iraqi attack is one by an Orthodox kibbutz that is producing what could be considered a sort of disposable gas mask.

Kibbutz Chafetz Chaim, affiliated with Poalei Agudat Yisrael, manufactures various forms of saturated disposable tissues, like the American "Wash and Dry," used for personal hygiene and other cleaning purposes. The trademark is "Bosmat."

The kibbutz is now producing tissues saturated with a solution of sodium bicarbonate--baking soda -- which offers some protection against some forms of poison gas in the absence of gas masks.

The kibbutz says each tissue, which comes individually wrapped in a hermetically sealed packet, has a "life" of 10 minutes and then must be replaced.

That means, the kibbutz explains, that if you keep a packet handy, you can feel confident you will come safely through a gas attack unscathed by keeping the tissues pressed to your face until the cloud of gas has dissipated or until you manage to leave the affected area.

DUTCH TRAVEL ADVISORY DOESN'T INCLUDE ISRAEL

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- The Dutch government has issued a travel advisory against visiting most Middle Eastern countries, including Iraq, Jordan, Syria, the eastern part of Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the Gulf states except Oman.

However, as of now, no restrictions have been placed on travel to Israel, Egypt, the North African nations of Morocco or Tunisia, or to Greece.

Those who have booked trips to these countries where travel is still advised cannot receive any refunds if they choose to cancel their trips.

Cancellations of trips to Israel from Holland have been made mainly by those who were to visit Israel for the first time and as members of groups, but not by those who visit Israel regularly and individually.

IAI SUES SPANISH FIRM

MADRID, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- Israeli Aircraft Industries has filed a lawsuit against a Spanish electronics company, asking for more than \$125 million in compensation for stolen technology, breaking a contract, lost income and a perceived loss of world market share in the business of modernizing old airplanes.

Ceselsa, the Spanish firm, which is a private concern, said Wednesday through its president, Jose Antonio Perez-Nievas, that the IAI accusations had no basis for its claim.

Perez-Nievas said that his company was forced by the Defense Ministry to stop its cooperation with the Israelis in modernizing 23 Mirage airplanes of the Spanish air force. The two companies began their partnership in 1986.

Perez-Nievas said Ceselsa was not using Israeli technology but rather an advanced technology developed by Ceselsa itself. He said his firm's technology was already in use for repairing aging F-18 airplanes.

YESHIVA DEBUTS ON MOUNT SCOPUS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- A new yeshiva was inaugurated over the weekend on Mount Scopus in East Jerusalem, in the heart of an Arab neighborhood.

However, unlike the settlement in April of the St. John's Hospice in the Old City's Christian Quarter by 150 Jews that caused an international furor, the reaction to this new settlement has been quiet, at least for the time being.

The building which serves the yeshiva was purchased three years ago by an American contributor, for the purpose of housing the National Religious Party headquarters there.

The NRP was reluctant to move from its Tel Aviv headquarters however, and the place was leased to an organization headed by NRP Knesset Member Hanan Porat.

The renovated building is located in the heart of a pine grove on a 1.5 acre site, overlooking the eastern side of the Old City. Some 25 yeshiva students began their studies Sunday.

REMINDER: There will be no JTA Daily News Bulletin on Monday, Sept. 3.

FLORIDA JCC TENNIS TEAM FACES EXPULSION FOR REFUSING TO PLAY AT COUNTRY CLUB
By Andrew Goldsmith

NEW YORK, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- The women's tennis teams of the Jewish Community Center of Central Florida face expulsion from the Orlando-based Women's Amateur Invitational League (WAIT) for refusing to play tennis matches on the premises of a country club with discriminatory membership policies.

The ongoing dispute reached the boiling point Thursday when Jewish community leaders, rabbinical leaders and clergy were threatened with arrest if they did not vacate the room where the league's board was meeting to discuss the issue following a request from the JCC.

At the meeting, the board forwarded a motion to the league's ruling committee which will decide the fate of the team. The committee must decide whether a team's intentional forfeiture of a match can be permitted.

"We are quite pained with results of today's meeting," said JCC president Mitchel Laskey. "The league is forcing JCC to either violate moral convictions or to face expulsion."

The conflict began in November 1989, when the JCC board of directors adopted a policy which clearly stated that private clubs which "exclude persons from membership because of their race, religion, gender or ethnicity" were unacceptable.

Team members had complained to the JCC of feeling uncomfortable competing on the grounds of a club where they would not be permitted as members.

Discriminatory Practices

The JCC then acted to bring to the attention of the WAIT league the discriminatory practices of the Country Club of Orlando, which targets itself against potential members on the basis of race, religion and gender. The club of over 400 members has no black members and reportedly has just admitted a single Jewish member.

Club spokesman Donald Estridge was unavailable for comment but officials have made it practice to decline comment on the issue.

While the JCC team has refused to play the club at its facilities, they did offer to play the team at a neutral court and offered to pay any necessary costs associated with the rescheduling.

In May, the JCC had asked the Orlando-area league to change its bylaws to prevent participation by organizations that have discriminatory membership policies.

The league voted not to change its bylaws, in a meeting which JCC officials claim was unfair because the issue had been placed on the bottom of the agenda.

"Very little time was given to discuss the issue," Laskey wrote in a letter to WAIT league president Fran Kastl, and that "much more time was given to discuss the bathroom break between matches."

The JCC then requested an emergency meeting of the league board, held today, to discuss the proposed bylaw change.

"It's no question that we have been railroaded by the league," said Laskey. "But it is clear that we will not participate in a discriminatory league."

Asked whether legal action is being considered, Laskey said that "all available options are being considered."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN ISRAEL EXPECTED TO SOAR TO 15 PERCENT IN TWO YEARS
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- Israel's already gloomy job picture could darken considerably in the years ahead, according to the latest forecast by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

The rate of unemployment may reach 15 percent by the end of 1992, the ministry reports. In absolute terms, this means more than 250,000 Israelis unemployed, compared to 165,000 currently without jobs.

The forecast, prepared by the ministry's director general, Shmuel Slavin, was presented this week to the ministerial employment committee and a committee of directors general that deals with immigrant absorption.

According to the dismal forecast, some 45,000 Israelis will join the pool of unemployed labor for each of the next three years. And this does not take into account the new immigrants who will arrive.

The immigrants are expected to add from 80,000 to 90,000 names to the roster of unemployed Israelis every year. That estimate is based on a predicted immigration rate of 150,000 to 200,000 every year.

Some 1,025,000 Israelis are presently unemployed in the business sector. Another 450,000 civil service workers are without jobs.

Assuming that the public sector does not increase in the next few years because of the government's efforts to cut its budget, the burden of employment will fall on the private sector. But that will only happen if the economy grows.

IT'S A KOSHER, BUG-FREE LETTUCE -- AND THE ORTHODOX ARE TICKLED GREEN
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- Bug-free lettuce, grown in massive greenhouses in the Gaza Strip, is rapidly becoming a consumer success story among Orthodox Israelis while at the same time spreading into non-Orthodox homes, restaurants and hotels.

The agricultural delight, pleasing to the palate and the eye, is particularly important to religious Jews, who regard even the smallest bugs as non-kosher.

Farmers of the religious Gush Katif settlements introduced the new agricultural line, which has expanded to include parsley and cabbage, in cooperation with rabbis and scientists.

Laboratories connected to the venture are now experimenting with a whole gamut of other vegetables, including cauliflower, broccoli, corn and onion.

The precise growing process remains a trade secret, except for the grower's insistence that hardly any pesticide is used.

This indicates the probable reliance on physical blockage of pests, such as netting, to prevent crawling and flying bugs from even getting into the greenhouses.

The lettuce is marketed in sealed cellophane wrappers, so there is no additional opportunity for bugs to get into the produce before it gets to the consumer's table.

The bug-free produce is currently 30 percent to 100 percent more expensive than regular lettuce, but the growers expect the price gap to narrow as the consumption increases.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

**BUCHANAN'S LATEST ANTI-ISRAEL SLUR
MAY SIGNAL NEW CONSERVATIVE TREND**

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- When conservative commentator Patrick Buchanan charged on a recent television talk show that the Israeli government was pressuring the United States to go to war with Saddam Hussein, many in the Jewish community reacted with anger and incredulity.

"Outrageous, unfounded, and unacceptable," was how Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, termed Buchanan's charges.

They are "reminiscent of scurrilous charges made during World War II that Jews were the only ones who sought American entry in the war against Nazi Germany," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Even Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir took an opportunity to reject the substance of Buchanan's allegations, calling such charges "ugly" and untrue. He strongly denied that Israel would attempt to push a superpower into war.

Buchanan, a White House aide in both the Nixon and Reagan administrations, made the charges on the Aug. 26 broadcast of "The McLaughlin Group," a weekly talk show that airs on some NBC affiliates.

"There are only two groups that are beating the drums right now for war in the Middle East, and that is the Israeli Defense Ministry and its 'Amen corner' in the United States," Buchanan said on the program.

He elaborated on this point later in the show, saying that "the Israelis want this war desperately, because they want the United States to destroy the Iraqi war machine. They want us to finish them off. They don't care about our relations with the Arab world."

Israeli Response 'Muted'

Rather than "beating the drums" in favor of U.S. military action against Iraq, both Israel and the American Jewish community have intentionally kept their voices "muted" as the U.S. military buildup in Saudi Arabia continues, maintained David Harris, Washington representative for the American Jewish Committee.

"One of the questions I am asked again and again by the press is why the Jewish community has been so quiet" during the Gulf crisis, he said.

In taking actions against Iraq, "the United States has been acting in its own interests, and it has enjoyed the support of the American Jewish community, along with other groups," said Harris.

"We are singing in a chorus, and not a solo part, unlike what Pat Buchanan would like the American people to believe," he said.

Jewish leaders appear to be disturbed not only by the content of Buchanan's remarks, but about what they may portend about support for Israel among conservatives in the United States.

Conservatives like Buchanan, while never effusive in their support of Israel, had in the past backed the U.S.-Israeli relationship, since it served the interest of confronting the Soviet Union in the Middle East.

But since the fizzling of the Cold War, there has been a resurgence of isolationism in the conservative movement that has often had a strong anti-Israel edge.

In recent times, Buchanan and other com-

mentators, such as Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, have consistently characterized the U.S. alliance with Israel as damaging to U.S. interests in the Arab world, and they have spoken out against the foreign aid Israel receives as a drain on U.S. resources.

Isolationist Republicans

"What we have seen in the past two or three years is that the Republican Party has developed an isolationist wing," said Marshall Breger, who served as liaison to the Jewish community in the Reagan White House.

Another Jew who is active in the Republican Party said that Buchanan has a solid following in the conservative movement and his comments must therefore be taken seriously by the American Jewish community.

Buchanan "is an outspoken leader of the conservative agenda. He is a very forceful and articulate spokesperson. He has a constituency -- it's a vocal one, active one, and one that has historically been supportive of Israel," said the activist, who asked not to be identified.

Others say Buchanan is viewed as an extremist, even among those on the right.

"I think that he poses a certain danger if left unchecked," said Harris of AJCommittee. "On the other hand, his views are beyond the mainstream and are taken with a grain of salt by the mainstream of public opinion."

Buchanan's recent consistent tilt against Israel and Jewish interests has been noted beyond the confines of the organized Jewish community.

His colleague on "The McLaughlin Group," Morton Kondracke of The New Republic, observed on the Aug. 26 broadcast that "Pat now has a venomous attitude toward Israel and all of its supporters, for reasons I do not understand."

In fact, Buchanan has been hostile to Israel and many Jewish concerns for some time. In both his syndicated columns and in television appearances on Sunday morning Washington roundtables, he has questioned whether the continued existence of the Jewish state is viable, proclaimed the innocence of convicted Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk and supported the presence of the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz.

Cavalier About Jewish Complaints

Most of Buchanan's Jewish critics have said there is little the Jewish community can do about his remarks, other than continue to point out his apparent biases and rebut him when he appears to be distorting the facts.

Buchanan, however, can be cavalier about such complaints from the Jewish community, as evidenced in a July 12 letter he sent to Foxman of ADL.

Foxman had written that he found it "disturbing" and "highly offensive" when Buchanan described Congress as "Israeli-occupied territory."

Buchanan opened his response to Foxman by writing, "C'mon, Abe, lighten up."

"To call Capitol Hill 'Israeli-occupied territory,' it seems to me, should be no more 'disturbing' than to call Congress a 'wholly owned subsidiary of the National Rifle Association,' which comes under the rubric of fair comment and criticism," Buchanan wrote.

He added that "if ADL has moved from concerning itself with slurs against the Jewish community" to "sheltering the reputation of Congress for courageous independence, you really have your work cut out for you, friend."