

**KAHANE, THOUGH VILIFIED BY MANY,
IS REMEMBERED AS PROTECTOR OF JEWS**

By Elli Wohlgelester

NEW YORK, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- Rabbi Meir Kahane, the former Knesset member and Jewish Defense League founder who was assassinated Monday night, was eulogized Tuesday in Brooklyn as a man who stood up for Jewish pride and principles.

"He was the second Moshe Rabbeinu -- Moses took the Jews out of Egypt and Kahane took the Jews out of anti-Semitic countries," said Bernard Berkowitz, 58, a mourner at the funeral.

Only a few hundred people were able to enter the small Orthodox Young Israel synagogue, where Kahane spoke in the early years of the JDL.

The service was broadcast to the crowd outside, estimated by police at around 5,000. The crowd frequently broke into applause and loud cheers as Kahane was remembered as a great man, great teacher and protector of the Jews.

The 58-year-old firebrand orator, who was deified and vilified with equal fervor by supporters and detractors alike, was gunned down by a 34-year-old Arab on Monday night, at the conclusion of an hourlong lecture he gave to a group of some 60 supporters at a midtown Manhattan hotel.

El-Sayyid Nosair, a naturalized citizen originally from Egypt, was listed in critical but stable condition at Bellevue Hospital on Tuesday, where he underwent surgery for a gunshot wound to the chin.

Injured In Gun Battle

Nosair was injured in a short gun battle with a police officer from the U.S. Postal Service as he fled the hotel and tried to escape in a taxi.

"I was standing next to Kahane," Shannon Taylor, a close friend and one of Kahane's American lawyers, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"He had just stepped down from the podium after taking questions for an hour. I heard a bang, then I turned and saw a man running away with a gun," Taylor said. Another man was wounded as the gunman fled.

The alleged assassin, who police say acted alone, was charged with murder, attempted murder and criminal possession of a weapon.

The assailant, who worked for New York's Department of General Services as an air conditioning and heating maintenance worker, apparently stood up at the end of the question-and-answer session and fired two shots from close range, hitting Kahane in the head.

Kahane and the others wounded were rushed to Bellevue, where Kahane was pronounced dead at 9:57 p.m. At the hospital, hundreds of people, some carrying Israeli flags, gathered at the emergency room entrance as news of the shooting spread throughout the area.

One observer said he feared for the consequences. "I'm sure there will be some type of retaliation for this murder," he said. "It will be bad tidings for everyone."

At the funeral, a mix of people including Orthodox and secular, the old and young, surged against police barricades in a futile attempt to follow the plain coffin draped with a black velvet

cover inside their synagogue.

The coffin was draped with an Israeli flag as it was carried out of the synagogue on the shoulders of a dozen men, who could barely reach the hearse in the face of hundreds of people crowding around them and the synagogue gates.

As the hearse finally pulled away, people waved Israeli flags, chanting "Am Yisrael Chai." Others clenched their fists and shouted "An eye for an eye" in Hebrew, and "Never again!"

The body was to be flown to Israel on a 7:30 El Al flight. Kahane was to be buried Wednesday at Har Hamenuhot cemetery on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives.

A Pariah In Most Circles

The outspoken Kahane, whose political platform called for the transfer of Arabs from inside Israel to beyond the administered territories, was largely ostracized by the mainstream Jewish establishment, both here and in Israel, for his radical political views.

"I had a lot of admiration for his willingness to ask the hardest questions," said Alan Dershowitz, a law professor at Harvard University who defended Kahane a number of times over the years.

It was the right to say what he felt that made Kahane a pariah in most circles. After being elected to Israel's Knesset in 1984, Kahane was later banned from the Knesset for advocating what Israeli courts declared were racist views. He was also barred from appearing in many synagogues around the United States.

"Part of the blame (for the assassination) lies with those who wanted to censor him," Dershowitz said. "Jews and non-Jews who wanted to censor him bear some moral responsibility for starting down a path that inevitably leads to this."

The militant leader first gained national prominence in 1968 in New York, where he founded the Jewish Defense League with a clenched fist as its symbol and "Never Again!" as its slogan.

Raise Level Of Jewish Pride

"They were good days," said 60-year-old Bertram Zweibon, a co-founder of the JDL who knew Kahane for close to 30 years. "We set out to accomplish certain objectives, and by-and-by we were relatively successful. One was to raise the level of Jewish pride, so that the physical assault on Jews, which were on the rise in 1968-1969 when JDL was founded, could be properly prevented.

"Second, the question of the Jews imprisoned in various lands, the Soviet Union in particular. He could not sleep, none of us could, who grew up in the shadow of the Shoah and let it happen. Let it happen again and do nothing? So we did something, those of us who heard that different shofar," Zweibon said in an interview.

Jewish organizational leaders on Tuesday universally deplored the assassination, regardless of political persuasion.

"We rejected Rabbi Kahane's views and found them to be repulsive precisely because we believe the use of force and violence is intolerable and despicable, regardless of the political perspectives of the parties," the American Jewish

Congress said in a statement.

"We have had frequent occasion in the past to criticize the acts and policies of Rabbi Kahane and the JDL. But the way to repel abhorrent ideas is to expose them as fallacious and ill-conceived, not through murder and terrorism," the group said.

Rabbi Marc Angel, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, the rabbinic arm of Orthodox Jewry, issued a statement saying, "I believe it was Kierkegaard who said that when a tyrant dies his rule ends; but when a martyr dies, his rule begins. An Arab assassin has now made a martyr of Rabbi Meir Kahane."

The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry said in its statement, "Although we disagreed from our beginning in 1964 most strongly with Rabbi Kahane over the use of violence to achieve freedom for Soviet Jews, the historic fact clearly remains that he brought their plight dramatically to world attention. Rabbi Kahane strode where many others feared to tread."

Rabbi Sholom Klass, editor and publisher of the Jewish Press, where Kahane wrote a weekly column for 20 years, said, "Meir Kahane was a man with a dream, that his people could dwell in peace in their ancestral homeland, the Holy Land, the land of Israel, of Jerusalem. He died for that dream."

In Los Angeles, local supporters and opponents echoed feelings of shock at the murder of Kahane, who was scheduled to speak there on Sunday.

At a news conference called by the Los Angeles chapter of Kach International, a speaker compared Kahane's fate to that of Presidents John Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln, whose assassinations assured their historical greatness.

Kahane In History

"Our children and grandchildren will read about Rabbi Kahane in their history books, and they will see the Arabs thrown out of Israel," said Rabbi Dov Aharoni, the local chapter president of Americans for a Safe Israel.

In Washington, the State Department's deputy spokesman, Richard Boucher, said, "We deplore the killing. We see it as a despicable, cowardly action."

On Tuesday, the Knesset rose for one minute of silence when its session began, as is customary on the deaths of all serving or former Knesset members. Many absented themselves from the session.

Born Martin David Kahane in New York on Aug. 1, 1932, Meir Kahane grew up in Brooklyn, the first-born son of a respected Talmudist, Rabbi Charles Kahane, and a Latvian immigrant mother.

Other Jewish groups issuing statements of regret and calls for a cessation of violence were Americans for Peace Now; American Jewish Committee; B'nai B'rith International; B'nai Brith Canada; Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Jewish Community Relations Council of New York; National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council; Rabbinical Assembly; Simon Wiesenthal Center; Union for Traditional Judaism; Union of American Hebrew Congregations; United Synagogue of America; and World Zionist Organization.

(Contributing to this report were JTA staff writers Aliza Marcus and Susan Birnbaum in New York; correspondents Tom Tugend in Los Angeles and Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv; and intern Andrew Goldsmith in New York.)

AS ISRAELIS CONDEMN KAHANE MURDER, POSSIBLE ACT OF REVENGE INVESTIGATED By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- As Israeli politicians of all political stripes denounced the murder in New York of Rabbi Meir Kahane, security officials were investigating to see if the shooting early Tuesday morning of two West Bank Arabs might be an act of revenge.

Israeli soldiers and police were searching for a man, apparently Jewish, who gunned down two elderly Palestinians in the West Bank village of Lubban Sharkiya, halfway between Nablus and Ramallah.

Eyewitness said a man driving a Peugeot automobile with an Israeli license plate stopped near the Arab village's school at about 5:45 a.m., then continued along the road until he shot and killed Mohammed el-Khatib, 65, as he rode his donkey to work.

The driver then continued past the roadside village houses, where he shot and killed a 60-year-old woman, Marian Hassan, as she left her house.

After firing several shots into the air, he drove away.

A curfew was clamped on the village to reduce the risk of further violence, and the Nablus area was declared a closed military zone with no access to reporters.

The killings took place less than two hours after Kahane's killing, and the news of it had not yet been broadcast in Israel.

But security circles say the perpetrator may have heard the news from a foreign radio transmission or may even have received a telephone call from a supporter of Kahane's Kach movement in New York.

News of Kahane's killing was first broadcast here on army radio at 6:30 a.m., some 45 minutes after the murder of the two Arabs.

'There Will Be A River Of Blood'

Israel Radio reported later that one of its reporters had received a telephone call at about 8 a.m. from a man speaking fluent Hebrew who said, "If you search the villages south of Nablus, you will find the bodies of two Arabs."

One Kach activist, Baruch Marzel, expressed "hope it was revenge."

Another Kach activist, Yoel Ben-David, said, "I promise you there will be a river of Arab blood."

A number of prominent Israeli Arabs and West Bank Palestinian leaders joined Tuesday in deploring Kahane's murder. They said political assassinations should be denounced no matter what one thought of Kahane's policies.

Avi Pazner, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman, said "Israelis of all political persuasions deplore the assassination of Rabbi Meir Kahane, even though the great majority of them do not support his political views."

Even Ariel Sharon, Likud's fiery housing minister, called on the public to show restraint and not be drawn to retaliation.

Labor leader Shimon Peres said he is "categorically opposed to everything Kahane stood for," but that he does not think assassinations are the way to solve political differences.

Elyakim Haetzni of the Tehiya party, which favors annexation of the West Bank, said Kahane's murder was merely an extension of the intifada, though it took place in New York.

**JEWS POSTPONE MEETING WITH POPE
BECAUSE OF DISPUTE WITHIN THE SCA**

By Ira Rifkin

The Baltimore Jewish Times

BALTIMORE, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- The first scheduled meeting in three years between Pope John Paul II and a representative delegation of world Jewish leaders has been postponed for several weeks because of a dispute within the Synagogue Council of America.

The meeting, originally set for Nov. 14-15, has been rescheduled for Dec. 5-6, in the hope that a dispute between Orthodox and non-Orthodox members of the SCA can be resolved.

The conflict revolves around the composition of the SCA delegation that will meet with the pope. At issue is whether one SCA constituent agency has veto power over a member of the delegation chosen by another SCA agency.

At its core, the dispute reflects the degree to which the growing Orthodox versus non-Orthodox split has impinged on Jewish communal unity. But it is also a measure of the SCA's continued ability to function as a unified voice for the mainstream of American religious Judaism.

The official purpose of the Vatican meeting is to commemorate the church's 1965 "Nostra Aetate" document, which decried anti-Semitism and opened a new era in Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

That dialogue is currently at a high point following a summer meeting in Prague, at which Jewish representatives and Catholic Church officials produced one of the strongest statements yet on the church's role in fostering anti-Semitism.

Jewish participation in the upcoming meeting is under the auspices of IJCIC, the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, which is recognized by the Vatican as representing world Jewry in Catholic-Jewish discussions.

IJCIC is composed of the SCA, the World Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith International and the Israel Interfaith Committee. Each IJCIC constituent agency selects an assigned number of its own delegates for meetings with Catholic officials.

Seymour Reich, the B'nai B'rith leader who currently chairs IJCIC, said the SCA asked for a postponement of the meeting with the pope, because "they had some internal matters they needed to reconcile before they could proceed."

Doesn't Affect Relations With Vatican

But Reich said the meeting is not in any danger of being canceled because of the SCA flap.

Nor, he added, does the SCA's "internal hassle" reflect on Catholic-Jewish relations, which were strained in 1987, when Orthodox organizations officially refused to meet with the pope in Miami because of his earlier meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, whose Nazi past had become a major international issue.

"The whole issue about postponing the trip has nothing to do with Catholic-Jewish relations," agreed Rabbi Joel Zaiman, the Baltimore Conservative rabbi who is the current SCA president.

"Everyone wants to go to Rome and follow up on our progress in Prague," he said. "This trip was postponed to allow the Synagogue Council to organize itself more effectively for the Rome visit."

The SCA is an umbrella group representing the rabbinic and congregational bodies of the three largest movements of Judaism in America: Reform, Conservative and Orthodox.

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations

of America and the Rabbinical Council of America, the SCA's two Orthodox member agencies, insist they have the right to veto any member of an SCA delegation.

The four non-Orthodox SCA member agencies maintain that the SCA constitution, though vaguely written, does not give one agency a say over another agency's delegate selections. The Conservative and Reform agencies insist a veto may only be extended within the SCA on policy statements.

The postponement means the meeting with the pope will now follow the Orthodox Union's Thanksgiving weekend national convention, at which a new president will be elected to succeed Sidney Kwestel.

Non-Orthodox SCA leaders are hoping the new O.U. president will be less antagonistic toward the SCA and willing to put the veto issue aside, at least for now.

Focus On Former SCA President

According to various sources, the current veto dispute was triggered by Kwestel and SCA Vice President Herbert Berman, an O.U. representative to the SCA, when they objected to the inclusion of Conservative Rabbi Mordechai Waxman in the delegation scheduled to go to Rome.

Waxman, who is from Great Neck, N.Y., is a former SCA president and former IJCIC chairman with a long record of participation in Catholic-Jewish dialogue. In 1987, he served as the SCA spokesman at the Miami meeting with the pope.

Waxman became the spokesman in Miami after the Orthodox SCA member agencies officially withdrew from the meeting in protest over the Waldheim controversy.

According to the sources, who all requested anonymity in exchange for providing information, Kwestel's and Berman's objection to Waxman stemmed from his deviation from the text that had been approved for the Miami meeting.

By straying from the text, he allegedly softened a statement critical of the pope's meeting with Waldheim.

The non-Orthodox SCA members dispute the sincerity of the objection to Waxman by noting that the Long Island rabbi has been a prominent member of several IJCIC delegations since Miami -- including the Prague gathering -- without any furor erupting.

Waxman did not respond to requests for an interview. Kwestel declined to discuss "personalities." But he insisted that the O.U., or any other SCA member agency, "has a right of veto over (any) decision of the SCA."

Whether or not the Synagogue Council might participate in the upcoming Rome meeting without its Orthodox members, as it did in Miami in 1987, has not been decided, said Zaiman of the SCA.

Just how serious a threat the current impasse is to the continued existence of the SCA is difficult to gauge. Orthodox sources say the SCA could be nearing a breaking point. But Conservative and Reform leaders insist the SCA will survive intact, just as it has weathered other storms that have flared up since its founding in 1926.

The SCA's original intent was to foster cooperation among the leading agencies representing the mainstream of American Jewry's religious establishment. Since its inception, however, a diversity of views has restricted the group's role to representing mainstream Judaism in interfaith dialogues and before governmental bodies.

(JTA staff writer Debra Nussbaum Cohen contributed to this report.)

PLO TELLS U.N. THAT IRAQI INVASION HAS COST IT \$1.3 BILLION IN REVENUE

By Aliza Marcus

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization has presented the U.N. Security Council with a list of financial losses Palestinians have incurred as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

While the document does not make a formal request for financial assistance, observers believe it could set the stage for the PLO to request compensation in the event of an Iraqi defeat.

While some countries, such as Jordan, have submitted specific requests for financial assistance, the Security Council is not empowered to give money, although it can appeal to member states and U.N. agencies to offset a country's financial losses.

If the PLO were to make a formal request for assistance, it might run into trouble, say U.N. sources, citing the fact that the PLO only has observer status at the United Nations and is not a member state.

Losses sustained by the PLO and Palestinians in the wake of the Aug. 2 invasion and the ensuing economic sanctions against Iraq total \$1.3 billion, according to the document, which was issued by Nasser al-Kidwa, the PLO's alternative permanent U.N. observer.

This includes \$747 million for lost workers' remittances, exports from the administered territories and aid from the Gulf states.

The PLO letter, dated Oct. 16, was criticized by the director of U.N. affairs for B'nai B'rith International, who said it was the PLO's supportive stance of the Iraqi invasion that caused the Gulf states to cut their contributions to the PLO.

"Arafat does remind me of the fellow in the Jewish folktale who, after killing his parents, asked the judge for mercy on the grounds he was an orphan," said Harris Schoenberg.

"In fact, PLO forces under Arafat's lieutenant, Abul Abbas, have reportedly been helping the Iraqis to loot the country," he added.

Credentials Vote Postponed

Meanwhile, the General Assembly has agreed to an Arab request to postpone consideration of a report from its credentials committee. The Arabs reportedly requested the delay so they could introduce a motion criticizing Israel for failing to comply with U.N. resolutions.

Over the past eight years, the normally routine approval of countries' credentials has meant an Arab-initiated motion to strip Israel's membership in the General Assembly. The vote is always tabled indefinitely, as a result of a counter-motion submitted by one of the Scandinavian member nations.

The Arab bloc, realizing support to revoke Israel's credentials has been declining yearly, is apparently counting on the two recent Security Council resolutions criticizing Israel to ease passage of a motion that would approve Israel's credentials while condemning the Jewish state for not adhering to those resolutions.

The resolutions, both of which were supported by the United States, criticized Israel's handling of the Oct. 8 riots on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, in which Israeli police killed at least 17 Arabs and wounded more than 130 others.

They also demanded Israeli cooperation with a U.N. investigatory mission, which the Israeli government refused to receive.

KNESSET VOTES NOT TO LIFT IMMUNITY OF MEMBER LINKED TO 1988 PLO SCHEME

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- The Knesset voted Monday night not to strip Arab Knesset member Mohammed Miari of his parliamentary immunity.

A Knesset panel had recommended last week that Miari's immunity be stripped so that he could be prosecuted for his alleged involvement two years ago in a failed scheme by the Palestine Liberation Organization to sail a boatload of Palestinian deportees into an Israeli port.

But in a move that surprised political observers, the Knesset voted 49-29 not to lift the immunity of Miari, who heads the one-seat Progressive List for Peace.

Seven members of the Likud bloc, including Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i and Economic Planning Minister David Magen, either absented themselves from the secret vote or abstained.

The Likud had made special efforts to ensure the vote's success. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrived at the Knesset late Monday night especially for that purpose.

After the debate and vote, which took several hours, many opposition Knesset members rushed to shake Miari's hand. Likud members demanded a thorough soul-searching within party ranks to see why so many of its members failed to support the move to lift Miari's immunity.

The motion to remove Miari's Knesset immunity was submitted by Haim Corfu, chairman of the Knesset House Committee, who had acted on behalf of Attorney General Yosef Harish.

Prior to the vote, Miari made an emotional speech, in which he insisted that he was a member of the Knesset by right and not by mercy. He stressed he had acted in accordance with his commitment to his voters. He blamed those who had asked to remove his immunity of acting against him not as an individual, but rather as the representative of Arab voters.

"There is no second-class Knesset member, just as there is no second-class citizen," he said.

Likud Knesset member Tzahi Hanegbi said Tuesday that it was one of the absurdities of Israeli democracy that Miari's immunity remained intact, while Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was barred from running for the Knesset in 1988, was no longer alive.

BUSH SIGNS 1991 FOREIGN AID BILL

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- President Bush has signed the 1991 foreign aid bill, which contains \$3 billion in all-grant aid for Israel and forgives Egypt's \$6.7 billion debt to the United States.

"I am especially pleased that the Congress has recognized the critical importance of the issue of Egypt's military debt," Bush said Monday.

But the president was unhappy with other portions of the \$15.4 billion measure, including new constraints on U.S. aid to El Salvador and Cambodia.

"Despite my serious concerns," Bush said, "I believe that it is necessary to sign this act in order to move forward with the job of conducting U.S. foreign policy."

Bush has also signed the 1991 defense appropriations bill, which enhances U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation.