

**FBI PROBING ARAB GROUPS
FOR TIES IN KAHANE KILLING**

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The FBI reportedly is investigating whether Moslem groups had any involvement with the assassination of Rabbi Meir Kahane.

The accused assassin, El-Sayyid Nosair, 34, appeared for a hearing in Manhattan Criminal Court on Tuesday to assess progress in the case, which was continued pending an indictment hearing next Wednesday.

Nosair, who was wounded by a postal worker following the shooting, was brought to court from a security ward at Bellevue Hospital wearing bandages on his chin and neck.

His attorney, Michael Warren, told Judge Harold Beeler that his client did not wish to testify before a grand jury.

He also took issue with a statement Nosair made after he was arrested, saying his client had been "too heavily sedated to give a coherent statement."

In the statement, Nosair had told police he was innocent of the Nov. 5 killing here and had just been passing the scene when he was caught in the crossfire between the postal officer and a man wearing a yarmulka.

Although New York police say he acted alone, the FBI is investigating Moslem groups associated with the New Jersey mosque where Nosair worshiped, according to The New York Times.

Contacts With Radical Groups

One such group is the Egyptian-based Muslim Brotherhood, which has violently opposed the Egyptian government.

Nosair had contacts with such radical groups through the Masjid al-Salam mosque in Jersey City, N.J., the Times said.

It reported that officials at the mosque praised the killing of Kahane, whose extremist anti-Arab proclamations led to his ouster from the Israeli parliament on grounds of racism.

Nosair, described as a quiet, introspective man, has become a hero in the local Moslem community, according to the Times.

The newspaper noted that one of the 300 to 400 worshippers at the mosque, Egyptian-born travel agent Sultan Ibrahim El Gawli, was once convicted of attempting to smuggle explosives and weaponry to the Palestine Liberation Organization for use in Israel.

The newspaper report also said Gawli comes from Port Said and has family ties with Nosair, who immigrated here from Port Said in 1981 and became a U.S. citizen in 1989.

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, a third Kach activist was arrested in connection with last week's murder of two elderly West Bank Arabs, allegedly committed in retaliation for the assassination of Kahane.

Police on Tuesday night picked up Arye Goldberg of the West Bank settlement of Tekoah after he failed to report for questioning.

Two other suspects in custody for the Nov. 6 killings are Ben-Zion Guffstein and David Axelrod, both known activists in the anti-Arab Kach movement.

The police suspect that Axelrod's rifle was used by Guffstein in the slaying of Mohammed el-Khatib, 65, and Marian Hassan, 60, in Lubban Sharkiya village midway between Nablus and Ramallah on the West Bank.

Khatib was gunned down from a passing car as he rode his donkey to work. Hassan was killed by the same gunman as she left her house.

(JTA correspondent Gil Sedan in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

**IDF'S LATEST WEAPON AGAINST INTIFADA
IS LIGHTWEIGHT CANNON GRAVEL-THROWER
By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force has unveiled its latest weapon against the intifada -- a 66-pound "gravel gun" designed to fight stones with stones.

The lightweight cannon mounted on a jeep, which can spew egg-size stones at a rate of 600 per minute at a range of about 250 feet, was demonstrated this week for IDF and police officers, who apparently were favorably impressed.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens ordered the new riot-control weapon into immediate use.

The projectiles emerge from a cone-shaped muzzle in a scattershot pattern, ideal for dispersing large crowds. According to some officers who watched the demonstration, its very presence should be enough to deter riots.

Because the cannon can be mounted on a jeep, it is accessible to the narrow streets and alleys of towns in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. An earlier model mounted on a half-track did not have such mobility.

The designers claim their high-tech, non-penetrating stones are no more lethal than stones hurled by hand but admittedly need to be used with caution to prevent serious injuries.

The "gravel gun" could eventually replace live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas as the favored riot-control weapon.

Bullets need pinpoint targets and tear gas often blows back on the security forces who fire it.

The only mystery about the new weapon is why it took two years of bureaucratic delays before the Defense Ministry approved its use.

The gravel gun arsenal presently consists of 60 guns.

**ISRAEL'S DEFENSE DEPT. REAPPRAISING
JORDAN BORDER AFTER INFILTRATIONS
By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The defense establishment has begun a rigorous reappraisal of security conditions along Israel's lengthy and no longer quiet border with Jordan.

It was undertaken in response to the growing number of armed infiltrations of Israel from Jordanian soil, which seem to indicate that King Hussein is fast losing control of his kingdom to Islamic militants on the military, political and popular levels.

"The king is riding a tiger," Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff Dan Shomron told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday.

Shomron said the new situation in Jordan and the Middle East generally requires the IDF to provide greater protection for the Jordan Valley settlements.

The need for tighter security on the Jordanian border was demonstrated early Tuesday when a lone infiltrator managed to cross the Jordan River undetected and attack an IDF lookout post, killing 37-year-old Sgt. Pinhas Levy before being overpowered.

It was the third infiltration from Jordan in three weeks and the second in six days to cause an IDF fatality.

Apart from the Egyptian border, which was fixed by a formal peace treaty in 1979, the border with Jordan had been Israel's most peaceful frontier.

Unlike the perpetual violence on the Lebanese border and the menace of Syrian troops across the Golan Heights, Israelis came to expect little trouble in the east.

They were convinced that King Hussein, who celebrated his 55th birthday on Wednesday, has a strong interest in keeping the border peaceful and free from terrorist incursions, if only to avoid reprisal attacks by Israel.

Moreover, King Hussein, the region's longest-reigning monarch, maintained unofficial contacts with Israel even after he voluntarily severed his links with the Palestinians in the West Bank.

For those reasons, the border with Jordan, though Israel's longest, was its most lightly defended. It extends from the Jordan Valley in the north to the desert reaches of the Arava in the south.

The Jordan River, a natural boundary part of the way, is a narrow, easily fordable stream with reeded banks.

Lookout Posts with Floodlights

The topography of the region makes it necessary for the Israeli security fence and electronic surveillance devices to be set back from the river bank, in some places as much as several hundred feet.

Lookout posts equipped with large floodlights fill the gaps, but because the region has long been peaceful, they are manned by older, less rigorously trained soldiers.

Defense officials and senior IDF officers fear the period of calm on the eastern frontier is over. They can no longer rely on Hussein as a tacit partner in keeping the peace because his influence is waning rapidly.

His largely Palestinian population no longer supports him, and the Jordanian Parliament, which he reconstituted only last year, may no longer be a rubber stamp.

Hussein's small, well-trained army, considered one of the best in the Arab world, is no longer unquestioningly loyal.

The Arab affairs correspondent of Ha'aretz reported Wednesday that since the intifada began nearly four years ago, and especially after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait last August, the streets of Jordan have been seething with anti-Israel sentiment of unprecedented virulence.

The Palestinian day laborer from the West Bank, who murdered three Israelis in Jerusalem's Baka neighborhood on Oct. 21, became an instant hero in Jordan.

The only complaint against him was that he hadn't killed more Jews.

Ha'aretz said King Hussein has shown himself to be weak and helpless against nationalists

and especially Moslem fundamentalist elements in his kingdom which are inciting attacks on Israel.

There have been anti-Israel, pro-Iraqi assemblies and marches by tens of thousands in Jordanian cities, Ha'aretz reported. Only a massive police presence prevented riots, the newspaper said.

The king's control has been eroded further by the severe economic crisis in Jordan in the last two years.

It has worsened significantly since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August. At least 100,000 Jordanian workers in Kuwait were forced to return to their own country, where unemployment is running at a 35 percent rate, Ha'aretz said.

The price of fuel is rising. The once busy port of Aqaba, Jordan's only access to the sea and a major source of revenue for the country, has been paralyzed by the U.S.-led blockade of Iraq.

In the political sphere, Hussein's Hashemite dynasty faces serious trouble in Parliament.

A majority coalition -- 43 of the 80 members -- has been formed of Islamic radicals, leftists and nationalists who are united by their dissatisfaction with the king.

According to Ha'aretz, the showdown will occur in three days, when the Parliament elects a chairman.

If the opposition bloc manages to seat its candidate, Abdel Latif Arbi'at, it will be a Parliament overtly hostile to the king.

AGUDAH GETS OK TO JOIN LIKUD, BUT SETS RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The Agudat Yisrael's Council of Torah Sages gave the green light Wednesday for the Orthodox party to join Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud-led government.

But the move is contingent on certain conditions set by the Agudah, which Likud hopes to settle in time for the Cabinet to approve the coalition agreement at its regular weekly meeting Sunday.

Agudah has demanded appointments to various influential government posts and has set a deadline for the passage of religious legislation.

Bills banning the sale of pork in Israel and tightening already severe restrictions on abortion are ready to be submitted to the Knesset.

Micha Harish, the Labor Party secretary, is in the meantime trying to cast doubt on Likud.

He warned Wednesday that Shamir would renege on his promises, and that Agudah had better "think twice" before joining the government.

Shamir is anxious to solidify Agudah's four Knesset votes, in order to strengthen his narrow regime.

But even with those votes, the coalition has internal strains.

Shas, Likud's largest religious partner, is threatening to quit over the continuing investigation of Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, who is accused of misappropriating government funds.

Other religious factions, like the small Degel HaTorah party, are worried that the agreement with Agudah will infringe on the pact it signed with Likud when Shamir's government was formed in June.

Shamir met with Degel Knesset member Moshe Gafni on Wednesday to offer assurances.

MANDEL COMMISSION ON JEWISH EDUCATION RELEASES STUDY RECOMMENDING OVERHAUL

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Following two years of study, the Commission on Jewish Education in North America has concluded that the current Jewish education system is beset by serious problems, and has recommended several strengthening steps, including raising \$25 million to \$50 million in funds.

The commission also created a new organization -- the Council on Initiatives in Jewish Education -- to implement its recommendations.

After two years of digesting commissioned reports and testimony from Jewish education professionals, sociologists and consultants -- at a cost of approximately \$1 million -- the commission cited deficiencies in funding, communal support and professionalism in Jewish education.

Pointing out that Jewish education in the United States and Canada costs about \$1.2 billion a year and employs some 30,000 educators, most of whom work part time at thousands of Jewish institutions, the commission's report noted that close to 60 percent of the 1 million Jewish children of school age in North America do not receive any form of formal Jewish education.

Only about 40 percent of the Jewish children in the United States, and about 55 percent of those in Canada, are currently enrolled in any Jewish school, and the problem becomes far more pronounced once kids are past Bar Mitzvah age.

The report noted problems including "sporadic participation; deficiencies in educational content; an underdeveloped profession of Jewish education; inadequate community support and the absence of a research function to monitor results, allocate resources and plan improvements."

Performing A Pivotal Role

It concluded that "a massive program will have to be undertaken in order to revitalize Jewish education so that it is capable of performing a pivotal role in the meaningful continuity of the Jewish people."

The commission, a group of 44 top educators, philanthropists and community officials, was assembled in 1988 by Morton Mandel, a Cleveland businessman and philanthropist who served four years as chairman of the Jewish Agency's Jewish Education Committee beginning in 1984.

The group boasts participants from a range of organizations, including the presidents and chancellors of the major seminaries from across the denominational spectrum, and some of North America's leading Jewish philanthropists.

They include: Rabbis Alfred Gottschalk, Arthur Green, Norman Lamm and Ismar Schorsch; Mona Riklis Ackerman, Charles Bronfman, Lester Crown, Eli Evans, Max Fisher and Ludwig Jesselson.

Two areas of Jewish education were singled out for specific recommendations: building the Jewish education profession and mobilizing community support for Jewish education.

Expanding professional training institutions, raising the salaries and benefits of educational personnel, and focusing on recruiting from new sources were some of the suggestions made by the commission.

A Jewish Education Corps made up of outstanding college students, the commission says, would be a rich source of talent.

Modeled on the Peace Corps, young people

would commit to a number of years of part-time teaching and, as they continue their general studies, would receive special training as well as remuneration.

Another source of new talent could be corporate, legal and arts professionals who want to make a career change.

More support from the community, which would lead to more funding for and participation in educational programs, should be developed by recruiting community leaders, according to the commission, as well as working to change attitudes toward Jewish education at the local level.

Mixed Reviews

The commission's work received mixed reviews from Jewish education professionals, some of whom felt that the recommendations themselves were not particularly interesting or new.

"I don't think it required two years and this much money to get to this point," said one education specialist familiar with the commission.

It was Mandel's connections as a philanthropist, some suggested, that got the commission off the ground at all, and which may make the council a worthwhile endeavor.

As a philanthropist, Mandel was able to bring together the heads of Jewish organizations with divergent ideologies, and the heads of important North American foundations with an interest in Jewish education.

Educators said the influence of the Council on Initiatives in Jewish Education could have positive impact in the long term, by catalyzing interest in, and the funding of, rebuilding Jewish education's weak spots.

"A lot has been going on beneath the surface in terms of building the relationships that will make this initiative successful," said Jonathan Woocher, executive vice president of the Jewish Education Service of North America, and a senior policy adviser to the commission.

The Council on Initiatives, created to implement the Mandel Commission's ideas, has defined several tasks for itself: to "advocate, initiate, connect, research, synergize and energize."

While these may seem little more than fashionable buzzwords, they, more than any substantive educational suggestions, are the council's strength, educators say.

Annual \$500,000 Budget

The body is to have a small staff of three or four professionals, currently led by acting director Stephen Hoffman, who is also executive vice president of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland.

The annual \$500,000 budget comes from several foundations, including the Mandel Associated Foundations.

The council will work through already-established organizations like JESNA, the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America, the Council of Jewish Federations and the seminaries to evaluate existing programs and implement new ones.

"This small group will work with existing institutions to strengthen them," Mandel explained, "By pushing, kicking, gouging and scratching, when necessary."

Mandel's effort has already sparked some community efforts; about 10 cities around the country have initiated local versions of the commission's evaluation of the state of educational quality.

ONE OF EVERY SIX CANADIAN JEWS NOW LIVES IN POVERTY, STUDY FINDS

By Bram D. Eisenthal

MONTREAL, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- A surprising number of Jews in Canada -- one out of every six -- lives in poverty, according to a study just released by the McGill University School of Social Work.

The study, conducted by Professor Jim Torczyner, soundly debunks the myth that "all Jews are wealthy."

The study, released Nov. 9, was conducted by Torczyner in association with the Canadian office of the Council of Jewish Federations and with the assistance of Statistics Canada.

The poor Jews constitute some 50,000 individuals, many of whom are classified as "invisible poor" -- they are a minority among Jews because they are poor and a minority among the poor because they are Jews.

Released under the title "The Persistence of Invisible Poverty Among Jews in Canada," the study began as a major research project funded by the CJF. Its purpose was to examine the dynamics and changing demographic nature of Jewish families in nine selected Canadian cities.

A databank derived from the 1981 census was created for use by the university's School of Social Work Demographic Studies Center, initiated in 1981 with a grant from the Graduate Research Council.

At the conference, Torczyner stressed that lifestyles have changed. "In the 1940s, everyone knew who was poor and also who was pretending to be rich. It's different today."

He highlighted that poverty among Jews is scarcely known, particularly because these people tend to be elderly, women and persons living alone or in smaller family units than their Canadian non-Jewish counterparts.

Shame A Factor

Additionally, these individuals generally have fewer contacts with Jewish philanthropic institutions. Shame is also a factor, leading to a reluctance to seek assistance.

Three out of 10 of the Jewish poor are elderly, while only 15 percent of Canada's non-Jewish poor are elderly. In fact, 15.8 percent of all Canadian Jews are over the age of 65, while 9 percent of non-Jews are 65 and over.

One out of three elderly Jewish women are poor, and two out of three who live alone are poor, affecting almost 10,000 Jewish women.

Interestingly, educational achievement is not a significant factor. Some 25 percent of all Canadian Jews have completed college, compared with 8 percent of the non-Jewish population. Fifteen percent of the Jewish poor have completed college, compared with 3.4 percent of the non-Jewish poor.

Poverty rates among Jews are significant in all of Canada's regions, and fluctuate alongside and in the same direction as poverty rates of all Canadians.

"If we look at the characteristics of the Jewish poor, these are not so different from those of the Canadian poor," said Torczyner. "It is in part due to certain stereotypes that the Jewish poor in Canada are at such a high level." At times, he said, "these stereotypes have generated prejudice."

The Jewish community as a whole has taken action in response to the alienation of the Jewish

poor. Bert Abugov, director of the Canadian office of the CJF, spoke of this response. "The report has proven to be a valuable resource," he said. "The condition (of poverty) is much more pervasive than we once realized."

He said that some of the data had been made available before. "The fact that this data is reliable and identifiable provides us with an important dynamic to alleviate the situation."

Abugov mentioned several programs in effect across Canada, varying from community to community, such as services for new immigrants, relief supplementation, scholarships, summer camp subsidies, food bank services and advocacy groups.

In Montreal, Project Genesis is an important community outreach organization. Funded in part by Montreal's Jewish federation, Allied Jewish Community Services, it provides information, referral and advocacy for the disadvantaged. The homeless can also receive welfare checks at this address, whereas in the past, a residential address was required in order to qualify for such benefits.

Project Genesis Executive Director Alice Herscovitch commented on one major problem today, the unavailability of low-income housing in Montreal. "The situation is very bad. People on welfare receive \$470.00 per month. After paying the rent, many have only \$70 left to live on."

In light of the current recession and a forecast of even rougher economic times ahead, the consensus was that the Jewish community is doing what it can to help the poor, but that only government could solve the problem.

"It is only government that has the resources required to solve the problem of poverty," said Torczyner. "The community can work at getting government more involved."

He also said discussions have been initiated with the office of the Secretary of State to expand the database to include other ethnic groups beginning in 1991.

Peter Wolkove, immediate past president of the Montreal federation and a member of the executive of the CJF, reiterated one important fact. "The criteria for determining the Jewish poor or other poor are the same. I hope I won't have to remind people of a line in 'The Merchant of Venice': 'We are not different.'"

WIESENTHAL ACCEPTS UNIVERSITY HONOR By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal accepted his sixth honorary degree here last week with the vow that he would continue to be "the voice of all those whose mouths have been shut forever."

Wiesenthal, who lost 89 family members in the Holocaust, has devoted his life to tracking down Nazi war criminals all over the world.

"I will never be quiet," he promised at the awards ceremony Wednesday, when the University of Vienna presented him with an honorary doctorate.

The doctorate was initiated by the student body and approved unanimously by the Academic Senate of the university.

Minister of Science Erhard Busek, who spoke at the award ceremony, praised Wiesenthal as a "warning voice whose words have been replete with humanity and not with hatred."

Austria has only just begun to erase its guilt toward Simon Wiesenthal, said Busek, a member of the conservative People's Party which ran Kurt Waldheim as its presidential candidate in 1986.