

**AGUDAH JOINS LIKUD GOVERNMENT
IN EXCHANGE FOR CONCESSIONS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir strengthened his political base Sunday with the addition of the Agudat Yisrael party to his Likud-led government.

But he may have paid a high political price by agreeing to the rigorously Orthodox party's terms, which have angered the secular majority of Israelis.

The price includes influential sub-cabinet and parliamentary offices for its four Knesset members, and commitments to enact controversial religious legislation and oppose electoral reforms.

Nevertheless, all but one member of Shamir's Cabinet voted to accept the coalition agreement Likud signed with Agudah on Friday.

The accord expanded the government's bloc to 66 of the Knesset's 120 members, instead of the delicate 62-58 majority that existed previously. Shamir can breathe easier now that the ability of smaller parties on the left or right to bring the government down has been considerably reduced.

But his peace of mind may have been bought at the cost of a new round in the religious debates that have troubled Israeli society from its earliest days.

The Cabinet, at its weekly session Sunday, endorsed two bills which it promised to bring before the Knesset for "rapid legislation."

Women In Tight Jeans

One bill calls for stricter enforcement of the ban on all public transportation on Saturdays. Another forbids what the pious regard as "indecent" advertisements on billboards. By their standards, this means women in tight jeans.

In addition, the Cabinet agreed to review at a later date bills banning the production and sale of pork in Israel and tightening the already severely restrictive abortion laws.

The religious legislation immediately came under fire from the left-wing parties and the Center-Shinui Movement.

Of possibly greater impact, however, was Likud's promise to Agudah not to support electoral reform measures without first consulting it.

Reforms have been proposed in recent years, mainly out of disgust with the crass deal-making that characterizes coalition-building under the present system.

Changes such as the direct election of the prime minister, replacement of proportional representation in the Knesset, at least partially by a constituency system, and raising the threshold for entry into the Knesset above the present 1 percent of the popular vote have gained ground rapidly with the public and in many political circles.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan of the two-man right-wing Tsomet party was the only Cabinet member who refused to endorse the agreements with Agudah.

"These are political laws, not religious laws," Eitan charged with respect to the promised legislation.

Knesset member Shulamit Aloni of the leftist

Citizens Rights Movement warned Shamir he would face a civil rebellion if he tried to enforce the promises made to Agudah, Israel radio reported.

The Center-Shinui Movement denounced what it called "the shameful surrender" of the Likud to Agudah.

Labor Knesset member Emmanuel Zisman said the agreement violated the status quo between the rights of secular and religious Israelis.

But Likud rejected the criticism as "hypocrisy." The Likud Knesset faction recalled that when Labor Party Chairman Shimon Peres tried to form a coalition last spring he made the identical promises to Agudah.

The religious party in fact had agreed in principle to join a Labor-led government had Peres managed to form one at the time.

In the short run, Agudah's most important gains may be from the powerful positions given to the members of its Knesset faction.

Rabbi Menahem Porush was appointed deputy minister of labor and welfare.

Rabbi Shmuel Halperst was named a deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office and put in charge of the powerful National Insurance Institute.

Rabbi Avraham Verdiger was appointed deputy minister in charge of Jerusalem and Rabbi Moshe Feldman was made chairman of the Knesset's Finance Committee.

**HUSSEIN GIVES ASSURANCE ON BORDER
IN CONFIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO ISRAEL**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- In a private message conveyed to Israel, King Hussein of Jordan has assured his neighbor that he has not changed his traditional policy of maintaining quiet on Jordan's long border with Israel, according to a report in Hadashot.

At the same time, the election of a Moslem Brotherhood candidate to Jordan's Parliament this weekend has Israeli analysts worried over the weakening of Hussein's hold on his country.

In the confidential message, the king in effect begged Israel's forbearance. The communication came in response to sharp warnings from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens that Israel would not tolerate infiltrations from Jordan, which caused two Israel Defense Force fatalities on Nov. 8 and 13.

But while the king may be speaking in earnest, he seems to be losing power in his own kingdom.

Israeli circles were disturbed by the election of an anti-Israel extremist to the chairmanship of Jordan's 80-member Parliament.

The vote over the weekend was 41-28 in favor of Abdel Latif Arabiat, candidate of the fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood, against the king's choice, former Interior Minister Suleiman Arar.

Another sign of the king's waning influence is a report that Force 17, the military strike unit of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has resumed its activities inside Jordan.

Meanwhile, in his opening speech to Parliament in Amman on Saturday, Hussein found it

necessary to rebuke the Western nations for their response to the Persian Gulf crisis.

The usually pro-Western Hussein called it hypocritical for nations to try to uphold international law in the Gulf region while ignoring the plight of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

There has been some tough talk in the Israeli government, particularly from the far right-wing Tehiya party, which suggested Sunday that the time has come for an offensive to restore peace along the border with Jordan.

Deputy Minister Geula Cohen has demanded a security zone inside Jordan similar to the one Israel maintains in southern Lebanon.

But the general mood here is more one of concern for the Jordanian ruler than anger.

Israeli policy-makers are convinced that Hussein would do everything in his power to preserve his relatively peaceful relations with Israel at a time when his own position is in jeopardy.

ISRAELI WOMAN MURDERED IN GAZA AS CURFEWS LIFTED IN TERRITORIES By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- An Israeli woman was found brutally murdered in Gaza City as curfews were lifted in the administered territories Sunday morning.

Zvia Gwirtz, 28, a resident of Bat Yam, insisted on visiting an Arab friend in Gaza on Thursday despite warnings by soldiers at the checkpoint that she risked danger.

Her body was found in an orchard in the eastern part of the city.

She was last seen making a telephone call at a grocery shop in the Shajaiya neighborhood, where she reportedly asked after an Arab acquaintance. A vendor said she was picked up by a car a few minutes later.

But police say her murder may not have been political. They believe the woman was having an affair with an Arab resident of Gaza who is married and has children.

The man is considered the prime suspect.

Curfews were imposed Thursday to forestall celebrations on the second anniversary of the Palestinian declaration of independence, which was proclaimed on Nov. 15, 1988 by the Palestine National Council at a meeting in Algiers.

KAHANE'S SON A SUSPECT IN KILLINGS OF ARABS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- The son of Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was assassinated Nov. 5 in New York, is under investigation as a suspect in the fatal shooting of two elderly Palestinians in a village in the West Bank, according to a report Sunday in Yediot Achronot.

Police apparently believe that the murders, which took place Nov. 6, were in retaliation for the shooting of Kahane, in which an Egyptian-born man has been charged.

Yediot reported that police suspect 22-year-old Binyamin Ze'ev Kahane and another man, Lenny Goldberg, of either direct involvement in the shootings or of collaborating in the murders by getting rid of incriminating evidence.

Both men are residents of the West Bank settlement of Tapuah, which is located near the village of Lubban Sharkiya, where the two elderly Palestinians lived.

According to one theory put forward by police, Kahane left Tapuah for his parents' home in Jerusalem with two friends after hearing of his father's murder.

During the drive to Jerusalem, someone in the car allegedly shot the two Palestinians.

Police are still holding two other suspects in the case, David Axelrod and Ben-Zion Guffstein.

BUSH PHONES HERZOG AND PRAISES RECEPTIVITY TO U.N. REPRESENTATIVE By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- In a phone call to Israeli President Chaim Herzog on Friday, President Bush lauded Israel's cooperation in offering to receive a United Nations Security Council representative and in working with the United States to keep the world's focus on Iraqi aggression in the Persian Gulf.

Bush also emphasized his personal support for improving America's currently strained relations with Israel.

In a 10-minute conversation, characterized as "warm and friendly" by a senior Israeli diplomat, Bush said that he had received a full report from Vice President Dan Quayle on the latter's conversation with Herzog while both were attending the coronation of the Japanese emperor in Tokyo.

Bush initiated the call to Herzog here from the White House, shortly before departing for Prague. The two presidents had planned to meet last Wednesday, but Herzog was delayed in Tokyo.

The conversation did not touch on operative subjects, such as the possibility that Bush might meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir during his visit to New York, according to the senior diplomat.

Earlier, Herzog met for 35 minutes with Ronald Reagan at the former President's office in Los Angeles. Herzog explained the events leading up to the Temple Mount riot and Reagan agreed that reports in the media had been distorted.

Herzog flew to Los Angeles after addressing the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in San Francisco, and speaking to the Commonwealth Club there on Thursday.

In his address to more than 3,000 American and Canadian leaders of Jewish communities, Herzog implicitly questioned their support of tourism to Israel and the absorption of Soviet immigrants through a series of rhetorical questions.

Pointing out that Israel was a safer place than most large American cities, Herzog asked, "Is it right and dignified that many elements of American Jewry should have seen fit at this time to cancel their conventions and so distance themselves physically from the Jewish homeland, and thus to weaken our ranks?"

Stressing that Christian tourism to Israel continued unabated, Herzog scolded the delegates by saying that "the reaction of our people in the U.S." did not "reflect honor and dignity on our people. If we as a people will be judged by history, it will be by our behavior in these historic times."

While praising American Jewry's financial support for the absorption of Soviet Jews in Israel -- a constant theme throughout the conference -- Herzog added, "I must ask you, my friends, are you making the required sacrifice? Are you rising to the occasion with all your munificence and generosity? Does your contribution reflect the challenge facing you?"

**SHULTZ SPEAKS FROM THE HEART
AT CJF SESSION IN SAN FRANCISCO**

By Mark Joffe

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- The United States should establish a closer bond of trust with the Israeli government, former Secretary of State George Shultz said in an address here Saturday night to North American Jewish leaders.

In a speech that appeared to contain many words of advice for the Bush administration, without directly criticizing it, the soft-spoken statesman argued that such trust would help advance the quest for peace in the Middle East and facilitate the handling of the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

"It seems to me we should be consulting with Israel about what is going on," Shultz told some 3,000 people attending the 59th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations. While the United States might not agree with Israel at all times, "I always found that if you listen to them, you might learn something," he said.

"Israel is right in the center of our concerns, and we have to display trust," he said.

Shultz took note of the fact that the CJF assembly had adopted a resolution Friday endorsing the Bush administration's handling of the Gulf crisis, and said he personally agreed with those sentiments.

But Shultz said the Bush administration should not merely insist on the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the restoration of the Kuwaiti government and the freeing of all hostages.

Set Higher Goals

"Those are not enough," he said, arguing that higher goals should be set.

For one, the United States must ensure that "the perpetrators of war crimes are held accountable for them."

He also said the United States must not leave the capacity for waging chemical warfare "in the hands of Saddam Hussein."

And it ought to be "very slow about taking off the military embargo" against Iraq, he said.

Shultz emphatically stated that there should be "no connection, absolutely none at all" with what he called the "situation on the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

"Any settlement that is reached should not connect them," he said, to thunderous applause.

The former secretary, whose vigorous pursuit of human rights issues with the Kremlin is credited with paving the way for the massive Jewish emigration now in progress, also spoke of the urgency of getting Jews out of the Soviet Union.

"The faster you can get them out, the better off you're going to be, because you do not know what's going to happen next," he said.

He said a recent encounter with a Jewish politician in Poland had reminded him that "with all the joy we feel" about what is going on in Eastern Europe, "anti-Semitism is rampant."

"So if there is a Jew in the Soviet Union who wants to get out, for God's sake let's get him out," he said.

Shultz also said that while he is glad the Soviet Jews are going to Israel, "I believe we should be willing to take more in this country."

The Reagan administration official, who is credited with helping Israel bring its inflation-ravaged economy under control in the mid-1980s,

had some strong suggestions for the Israeli government, saying he felt by now that he was "entitled to give advice."

He called for electoral reform, the privatization of the Israeli economy and a new concerted effort to reach a settlement with the Palestinians.

Arguing for electoral reform, Shultz said Israel must construct a political system that allows "more decisiveness." He recommended merely raising the threshold percentage of votes Israeli political parties need to win to gain a seat in the Knesset.

Saying the Israeli economy is "tied up in knots," Shultz called for more privatization and less bureaucratic red tape. "Let it loose, so that Israel can soar," he said.

As for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Shultz said it is a "problem that will not go away."

Optimistic On Settlement

Observing that there is "no military solution to this problem," he said, "There has to be a peace process going on."

But despite the failure of his own extensive efforts to bring about Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, Shultz seemed optimistic about the possibility of a settlement.

"There's a solution out there waiting to be found," he said, adding, "You can only find it by direct negotiations" with the Palestinians.

The former secretary praised Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's April 1989 peace initiative, which he called "a great step potentially."

"I just wish I had the Shamir plan to work with, because it was very progressive," he said, appearing to hint that he might have taken it further than his successor, James Baker.

While he also blamed Israel for "backpedaling" on the plan, Shultz seemed to be telling the Bush administration that it will get nowhere in the peace process by bullying Israel. Rather, it should concentrate its efforts on building Israel's confidence.

Shultz did this by relating a story about how the Bush administration had tried to arrange a miniature peace conference at the time of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's first visit to Washington.

Shultz said he flew to Jerusalem to try to persuade Israeli leaders of the need for such an "international umbrella" as a prelude to direct negotiations with the Arabs.

'Go Ahead, We Trust You'

After many questions were asked and answered, Shamir finally came forward and told an expectant Shultz: "Go ahead, we trust you."

"That was it," the former secretary recounted, repeating the words, "Go ahead, we trust you."

The secretary said he felt he had had the same type of relationship with the American Jewish leadership.

"We made common cause," he said wistfully. "There developed a trust and good friendship and confidence I appreciated tremendously."

"I would like to take this occasion to express my respect and admiration for you," he told his Jewish listeners, who had presented him with CJF's new George Shultz Human Rights Award.

He concluded his emotional address by saying that while he had no desire to return to government, he had to admit, "I miss you guys."

The audience responded with an ovation that lasted some five minutes.

**ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTER HEAD RESIGNS
OVER COMPLIANCE WITH ARAB BOYCOTT**

By Cassandra Freeman

TORONTO, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- The director general of the Ontario Science Center has resigned following disclosure that a \$1 million contract he signed with the government of Oman called for the boycott of Israeli goods and services.

The official, Mark Abbott, became the focus of protests in the Jewish community and the provincial government for violating Ontario's Discriminatory Business Practices Act, which forbids discrimination in the business community.

George Cohon, chairman of the board of trustees of the Science Center, a government corporation, announced at a news conference here on Friday that Abbott had "agreed in principle" to step down.

Abbott was expected to submit a formal letter of resignation Monday.

The contract signed last May called for the Science Center to design and install science exhibits for a children's museum in Oman, a Persian Gulf sultanate. The exhibit reportedly opened last Thursday.

Part of the agreement signed by Abbott stipulated that none of the equipment used in the exhibit could be "manufactured in Israel or purchased from an Israeli company or body."

It also stated that nothing could be purchased from any company on the Oman government's boycott list.

Those clauses were inserted into the contract under the heading "Israel Boycott Section," so their intent was clear from the outset, Jewish groups here charged.

'Profoundly Disturbed'

Ontario's recently elected premier, Bob Rae, said he was "profoundly disturbed" by the original contract and was "not entirely happy" with an amended version.

He was referring to an amendment made after a government lawyer advised the Science Center that compliance with the boycott violated Ontario's Human Rights Code.

The contract was altered to state that all materials provided would be North American and that all shipments would be through North American and/or European airports.

"This amended agreement is certainly no better, and it may be worse, than the original," said Howard English of B'nai Brith Canada.

"It seems to be a sophisticated cover-up with the same intent and effect," he said.

According to David Satok of the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Oman boycott also excludes Canadian businesses.

"The list keeps changing. But it certainly means boycotting Canadians. You could be boycotting Air Canada or Canadian shipping lines if they stopped in Israel," Satok said.

Cohon said he found out about the contract two months after it was signed. He said three Israeli toys were in fact in the finished exhibit.

But he said he was told the "Made in Israel" mark had been scraped off, an action he called "insidious."

According to Jennifer Fleming, marketing director, the Science Center was to have earned a \$400,000 profit for setting up the exhibit.

(JTA correspondent Ben Kayfetz contributed to this report.)

**STUDY CLAIMS IRAQ WILL HAVE
NUCLEAR WARHEAD IN 10 YEARS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- A report by the Center for Strategic Studies claims Iraq will complete construction of an enriched uranium plant, capable of producing nuclear weapons, within five to 10 years.

The study says the Iraqis are working on developing missiles with a range of 1,200 miles and trying to construct warheads that can carry biological and chemical weapons.

The researcher, Daniel Leshem, said Iraq is carrying out missile-launching experiments in Mauritania, an Islamic state in West Africa.

Iraq apparently fears Israel will attempt to destroy its missile launchers and has increased the number of launchers under construction.

A report in Sunday's New York Times confirmed this information through British, American and Israeli intelligence sources, who also said Iraq would need at least two years to begin warhead production.

Although Iraq still faces technical problems for the building of a serious nuclear arsenal, experts quoted by the Times said Iraq had managed to acquire some of the technical expertise and materials necessary to begin nuclear production.

Donald Kerr, an analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, said: "My own feeling is that it will be five to seven years, provided someone doesn't destroy Iraq's industrial capacity before then. The physics of nuclear explosions is fairly well understood, but the engineering of a warhead is a much more difficult matter."

**ETHIOPIA WILL LET JEWS LEAVE,
KNESSET MEMBERS SAYS ON RETURN**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- A Knesset member who just returned from Ethiopia reported that the government is prepared to allow all Jews in that country to leave for Israel and urged the Israeli authorities to prepare for the influx.

The Jewish Agency and immigration authorities should speed up the issuance of family reunion papers and streamline other bureaucratic procedures, said Geula Cohen of Tehiya.

Cohen, who is deputy minister of Science and Energy, was invited to brief the Ministerial Absorption Committee headed by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon on her trip.

She said her talks with presidential advisers and various ministers in Addis Ababa left the impression that the Ethiopian authorities regard the thousands of Jews now congregated in their capital to be a problem and a burden.

Consequently, she said, although the Ethiopian government is disappointed by what it says is Israel's failure to supply promised aid, it is willing to allow the Jews to emigrate.

About 100 Ethiopians arrived in Israel last Thursday night, via Rome. They were the first arrivals from Ethiopia in many months.

She said there are an estimated 17,000 Jews presently in Addis Ababa who receive some medical and welfare assistance from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and other help from the Israeli Embassy there.

An additional 2,000 to 3,000 Jews are believed to be living in rural areas.