

**BAKER'S PLANNED RETURN TO MIDEAST  
BODES WELL, ISRAELI MINISTER SAYS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy told the Knesset on Monday that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's imminent return to the Middle East bodes well for the peace process.

Baker found Israel favorably disposed to his efforts to get peace talks started and received "a positive response in several Arab lands, too," Levy told the Knesset members, who interrupted their spring recess for a special session to debate Israel's latest diplomatic moves.

Baker visited Israel and the Arab countries in mid-March. He was here again last week and will return at the end of this week.

Reports here said he was scheduled to land in Israel on Saturday evening. But in Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler announced Monday that Baker would meet with Israeli leaders Friday morning, after meetings Wednesday in Luxembourg with the foreign ministers of the 12 European Community nations.

The secretary is also expected to visit Arab countries, but aside from the stop in Israel, Tutwiler would not disclose his itinerary.

Tutwiler told reporters Baker is making his third Mideast trip in less than two months, because "we do not want to somehow inadvertently miss an opportunity that may well be there."

She repeated the U.S. view that a "window of opportunity" has existed in the region since the end of the war in the Persian Gulf.

"The president and the secretary believe that follow-up now directly with the parties is important if progress is to be made," the State Department spokeswoman said.

Explaining why Baker finds a third trip necessary, Tutwiler said the parties to the conflict are "serious" about peace, and "the most effective way that most people communicate in something that is this intractable, this difficult, is in person."

**Settlement Drive Criticized**

In Israel, Baker's early return was welcomed by Knesset members. Levy urged them "not to minimize the importance of the agreements we have reached with the United States."

The foreign minister has been challenged by Cabinet hard-liners, notably Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, over the way he conducted the talks with Baker last week.

Sharon is especially angered by the government's apparent acquiescence to U.S. insistence that the Palestinians negotiating with Israel represent themselves separately, rather than be part of a Jordanian delegation.

He is also concerned about Israel's willingness to recognize U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which imply giving up territory for peace, as the basis of negotiations.

Levy stressed, however, "every party's right to its own interpretation" of Resolution 242.

He also said Israel's peace proposal of May 1989 is "alive and well" and had received plaudits abroad. The proposal would have the Palestinians in the administered territories elect representa-

tives to discuss a limited autonomy arrangement with Israel.

Knesset member Gad Ya'acobi, speaking for the opposition Labor Party, attacked the government's accelerated settlement drive in the territories, which he said is deliberately "planting a minefield in the path of peace."

According to Ya'acobi, the entire Cabinet shares responsibility for Housing Minister Sharon's activities in that respect.

He urged the government to accept the principle of land for peace, saying it is the only way to end the conflict and let Israel focus its energies and resources on immigrant absorption.

Avraham Poraz of the opposition Center-Shinui Movement questioned the government's sincerity about peace, though he exempted Levy from his skepticism. Poraz said he hopes "American pressure will succeed in moving something."

Sarah Doron, responding for Likud, delivered an impassioned defense of settlement activity. She said the government's overriding responsibility is to protect national defense and that it is unacceptable for Jews to be barred from living anywhere in "Eretz Yisrael," which includes the territories, in Likud's view.

Young activists of the dovish Citizens Rights Movement and Mapam and Shinui parties disagree. They skirmished with security forces in the West Bank while protesting the government's plans to build a new settlement, to be called Revava.

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

**U.N. CHIEF REPORTS ON PALESTINIANS,  
URGES MEETING OF GENEVA SIGNATORIES**  
By Aliza Marcus

UNITED NATIONS, April 15 (JTA) -- Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in a report on the Israeli administered territories, supports a meeting of the signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention as a way of enhancing the safety and protection of the Palestinians.

The report, which extensively details the treatment of Palestinians in the administered territories from the end of December through the end of February, also criticizes Israeli authorities for using collective punishment, such as curfews and the demolition of houses of suspected intifada activists.

When reached for comment, Israel's permanent representative to the United Nations, Yoram Aridor, called the report "unbalanced" and reiterated his country's opposition to a meeting of the signatories to the convention, which addresses the rights of civilians living under occupation.

The report "doesn't give the appropriate weight to the fact that Israel was attacked during this time by Iraqi Scud missiles," the ambassador said.

"It also does not attach the appropriate weight to the fact that Israel only responds to vicious and mortal attacks by Arab terrorists against Jewish civilians, and Israel has to do what is necessary in order to defend its population," he added.

Perez de Cuellar writes that a meeting of signatories to the convention is not, "as some have suggested, intended to politicize the issues

at stake." Rather, he says, it is a way for other countries to ensure that Israel is respecting the convention. The report was submitted to the Security Council last week.

Although Israel has refused to accept the legal application of the convention to the administered territories, Israeli officials say they uphold the humanitarian provisions of the convention in their treatment of the Palestinians.

But according to the U.N. report, Palestinians in the administered territories have faced a number of problems over the past few months, including inadequate distribution of gas masks during the Persian Gulf war, when Iraq threatened to attack Israel with non-conventional weapons.

The Israeli High Court of Justice issued a similar ruling on Jan. 14, three days before war broke out, but Israeli authorities did not have enough masks or nerve gas antidotes to hand out to all the Palestinian residents of the West Bank, the report says.

The report goes on to criticize Israel for imposing an extended, around-the-clock curfew on the administered territories, which led to a halt in economic and educational activities and adversely affected the availability of medical services.

Citing the Israeli human rights group B'tselem and others, the report says that 1,714 West Bank Palestinians and 600 from the Gaza Strip were arrested for violating the curfew, and "hundreds of persons arrested for violating the curfew were tried in 'quick courts' and without legal representation."

#### Israel's Right To Defend Itself

Perez de Cuellar adds that during the period covered by the report, "the Israeli authorities carried out other collective punishments, such as the demolition of homes and uprooting of trees."

The secretary-general also mentions the Jan. 8 expulsion of four Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip, an action which the Security Council unanimously criticized in a Dec. 20 resolution when Israel's plans to resume deportations were first announced.

Aridor said Israel has the right to defend itself "against the murderous attacks by terrorists, and what we do, we do only in order to quiet the areas."

The 14-page report was requested by the Security Council in the December resolution, in which the 15 members expressed grave concern at the "dangerous deterioration of the situation in all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem."

That resolution was the third one last fall critical of Israel that the United States supported. The United States was at that time embroiled in strengthening its Arab coalition against Iraqi aggression.

Perez de Cuellar is in the process of soliciting opinions from signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention about the practicality of calling such a meeting. Aridor last month informed Perez de Cuellar that Israel "categorically objects" to the idea of holding such a meeting, as does the United States.

Perez de Cuellar points out in his report that taking measures in line with the convention, such as appointing a protecting power for the Palestinians, "requires the consent of the occupying power."

It is highly unlikely Israel would give such consent.

#### **ISRAELI POLICE BEGIN NEW INVESTIGATION INTO USE OF FUNDS BY RELIGION MINISTRY** **By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) -- The police have opened a second investigation into the alleged misuse of funds by Religious Affairs Minister Avner Shaki, at the insistence of the state prosecutor.

A similar inquiry begun three months ago was dropped. But the prosecutor returned the file to the police with a request that they recheck it.

The minister, who heads the National Religious Party's five-member Knesset faction, is suspected of using his authority to transfer ministerial funds to religious organizations run by family members or associates.

According to a report Monday in the daily Ma'ariv, some of the organizations used the funds for purposes unconnected with their activities.

But Shaki is not suspected of taking money for his personal use, Ma'ariv reported.

Nevertheless, Shaki was reported to have been questioned by police last Friday at a hotel in Tel Aviv. The minister denied the report. But Ma'ariv quoted a police officer involved in the investigation as saying the suspect was very nervous and wept.

Shaki was quoted as saying that "with the help of God" he would be cleared in the second investigation, as he was in the first.

He said he had no complaints against the police, who were "doing their job." He hinted his troubles were caused by political rivals who resented his popularity within the NRP.

#### **ETHIOPIANS WIN TOP 3 PLACES IN THE 11TH TEL AVIV MARATHON** **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, April 15 (JTA) -- Four Ethiopian runners, three of them visitors and one an immigrant, easily outpaced the competition Monday at the 11th Tel Aviv Marathon.

The annual race, sponsored by Hapoel, Histadrut's sports club, was won by Degai Senger of Addis Ababa, who covered the 27-mile course in 2 hours, 19 minutes and 49 seconds, a local record.

It was his second Tel Aviv Marathon. But the 26-year-old Senger said it was below his normal time for the distance and he could have done better if he had more time to acclimatize.

He and two other Ethiopian competitors arrived in Israel Sunday night. They came in first, second and third.

Fourth place was taken by David Raskai, who has run in three Tel Aviv marathons since he immigrated to Israel four years ago.

Raskai's time was 2 hours, 42 minutes and 50 seconds.

Only 125 runners took part in the grueling full marathon. The 21-kilometer "half marathon," equivalent to about 13 miles, drew 2,500 competitors, and at least 10,000 runners took part in the 10-kilometer "mini-marathon."

As in previous years, the event created horrendous traffic jams in Tel Aviv. Although police advised motorists without urgent business to avoid the city and its northern suburbs, the warning was either unheard or unheeded.

Thousands sat fuming in their cars for hours until the last runners crossed the finish line and the police removed their barriers from the city's streets.

## AT&T PROXY DRIVE BY NEO-NAZI GROUP POSES DILEMMA FOR GROUPS FIGHTING IT

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- Though a National Alliance proposal to end the American Telephone & Telegraph Co.'s business relationships with Israel was expected to be voted down by the vast majority of AT&T stockholders at Wednesday's annual meeting, the neo-Nazi group will have succeeded in achieving its real goal: to garner increased credibility for its racist views through mainstream exposure.

For the Jewish and other groups fighting the National Alliance's campaign, efforts to combat groups of this ilk are a double-edged sword.

A balance must be carefully struck between exposing the National Alliance's real goals to public scrutiny and not ceding it too much of the publicity it so hungrily seeks.

"We never want to give these groups the visibility that they don't deserve," explained Jerome Chanes, co-director for domestic concerns at NJCRAC, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

"At the same time, our long experience has taught us that the best counteraction against groups such as National Alliance is public exposure. When groups such as this are exposed as the racists that they are, the American body politic and individual Americans repudiate them."

The Arlington, Va.-based National Alliance, an outgrowth of the Liberty Lobby and the American Nazi Party, was able to get a proposal urging the telecommunications company to "phase out all sales of AT&T products and services to the State of Israel and to Israeli businesses" included in AT&T's proxy statement.

The group, headed by William Pierce, owns 100 shares of the blue-chip stock, just enough to allow it to use the proxy as a vehicle for its views, according to Securities and Exchange Commission regulations.

Each year since National Alliance bought its stock late in 1987 it has included a proposal in the AT&T proxy statement.

### 'Anti-Semitic Goals'

In 1988, 1989 and 1990, the proposals urged shareholders to vote to force AT&T to end its affirmative action program. Each year the proposal was rejected by the owners of at least 91.2 percent of AT&T's 1.09 billion outstanding shares.

At the end of the National Alliance proposal in this year's proxy, AT&T urges shareholders to vote against it. The company's directors noted that "clearly, the (National Alliance) is using the proxy process not to attempt to advance human rights, but to achieve anti-Semitic goals."

One way to make sure that investors know what the National Alliance is really about is to work with AT&T's shareholders. NJCRAC distributed background information about the proposal and the National Alliance to community relations professionals around the country.

Another way to get the message across is through the largest shareholders, some of which are state pension funds, which invest huge sums.

Illinois state pension systems, for instance, own 1,472,330 shares of stock, worth more than \$49.5 million, according to figures from last April.

The Illinois state legislature is considering a bill urging representatives of the state pension systems that hold AT&T stock "to participate in the proxy referendum and vote the full extent of

their portfolio holdings against the National Alliance stockholder proposal."

The resolution has strong leadership support, with the co-sponsorship of both the majority and minority leaders, and was expected to pass when it came to a vote Tuesday, on the eve of the shareholders meeting, being held in Chicago.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Metropolitan Chicago worked closely with legislators to draft the resolution, which was commended by the American Jewish Congress.

Though this is the first group to try to use an AT&T proxy "to espouse a social philosophy," AT&T spokesman Burke Stinson said he suspects "there will be more of this."

AT&T has tried to get the National Alliance proposals off the proxy, Stinson said, but they are permitted by the SEC to remain.

"Corporations know that they're being had in that their ballots are being used for publicity purposes, yet someone with a broader perspective on life would say that's what America is all about," he said.

NJCRAC's Chanes agrees. "These organizations have every constitutional right to express what they want to express," he said. "The best place to counteract these people is in the marketplace of ideas."

## ONTARIO SCIENCE CENTER FOUND GUILTY OF COMPLYING WITH ANTI-ISRAEL BOYCOTT

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, April 15 (JTA) -- The Ontario Science Center has been found guilty of violating the province's Discriminatory Business Practices Act by signing a contract with the government of Oman that excluded Israeli firms and products.

The conviction is the first since the act was passed in 1978, according to Marilyn Churley, Ontario's minister of consumer and commercial relations. It sends a strong message that such practices are not acceptable, she said.

Bernie Farber, spokesman for the Canadian Jewish Congress, which initiated the complaint against the Science Center, said the decision is "welcome news" to the Jewish community. He commended the provincial government for its "swift action."

Churley said a binding order was issued against the Science Center under which it acknowledged breaching the law and must make public any document related to the Oman deal.

It may not discriminate in future business practices and administrative procedures. Failure to comply could result in a fine of up to \$50,000.

Churley's ministry began investigating the deal last November after learning that the Science Center had signed a \$1.2 million contract with the Perisan Gulf sultanate of Oman to provide and install exhibits for a children's museum.

A clause in the contract forbade the inclusion of Israeli products or companies. It was revised later to say only North American products and companies were acceptable.

George Cohon, chairman of the Science Center, said he approved the revised contract after being assured by counsel that it was legal.

The center acknowledged that three Israeli-made toys were included in the exhibit after stickers indicating their origin were removed.

The center fired its director, Mark Abbott, after the incident came to light. His successor, Brian Shannon, said the government's decision was fair and the center will "fully comply."

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**

**JEWS HAVE PLACE IN NEW SOUTH AFRICA, SAYS PRETORIA'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO U.S.**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 15 (JTA) -- Jews have a future in the new South Africa, in which blacks will have majority rule, Harry Schwarz, South Africa's new ambassador to the United States, believes.

"Some Jews will leave," Schwarz conceded at a luncheon here last Friday sponsored by the American Jewish Committee. But he added, "The majority, I think, will stay."

Schwarz, a 66-year-old Johannesburg lawyer, has been active in the Jewish community on the national executive of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. He has also been one of South Africa's most vigorous opponents of apartheid.

It is his belief that the steps to end apartheid taken by President F.W. de Klerk and his governing National Party are irreversible that led Schwarz to resign from Parliament to become Pretoria's ambassador in Washington. For 16 years, he served in Parliament in the opposition Democratic Party and its predecessor, the Progressive Federal Party.

Unlike the previous ambassador, Schwarz makes a point of saying that he is representing all 37 million people in South Africa, not just the 5 million whites.

He believes that life in the new South Africa "will not be as easy" for whites. But he does not believe whites will be treated in the harsh manner that they treated blacks.

Schwarz pointed out that South African Jews have provided "more than a fair share of people who have stood up for the rights of underprivileged people."

In every election since 1948, when the National Party came to power and began introducing apartheid, no supporters of apartheid have been elected in areas where Jews dominate the vote, Schwarz said.

**'Don't Have To Be Ashamed Of Us'**

"You don't have to be ashamed of us when it came to our record," Schwarz told the AJCommittee leaders, though he added, "It doesn't mean we could not have done more."

Schwarz has done his share in opposing apartheid. He was brought to South Africa as a child from Nazi Germany after his father was unable to get a visa to enter the United States.

"It is somewhat ironic that I come back to the United States as an ambassador when my father couldn't get a visa," he observed.

Because South Africa gave him a home, "I consider myself as owing a great debt to that country," Schwarz said. "It is a debt which I can never repay fully. Perhaps that is why I went into politics."

But he added, "I would never have gone into politics if I would not have had a background of being a victim of racial discrimination."

Schwarz, who served in the British Royal Air Force and the South African Air Force during World War II, returned home to find that the Afrikaner-dominated National Party had come to power and begun introducing discriminatory laws.

He helped organize the Torch Commando, a group of World War II veterans who demonstrated against the apartheid laws that had been enacted. His activism landed him in Parliament in 1974.

Schwarz said he agreed to leave Parliament

in February and come to Washington because he wants to help lay down the foundation of the new South Africa.

For President de Klerk, it was an opportunity to send someone to Washington with anti-apartheid credentials, to convince Americans that the change in South Africa is real.

**Wants U.S. Sanctions Lifted**

But some feel Schwarz's actual task is to convince the U.S. Congress to lift the economic sanctions against South Africa. Schwarz said that South Africa will meet all the conditions for lifting the sanctions by the end of June.

Like many other South African white liberals, Schwarz maintains that sanctions have hurt the oppressed more than the oppressors.

He also argues that de Klerk has moved to abandon apartheid, not because of the sanctions, but because he realizes that South Africa cannot maintain minority rule.

He said the leadership of the National Party realizes it must negotiate with black groups, such as the African National Congress, "now, when they still have power to talk about the constitution and the economy." If they wait another 10 years, they will have no bargaining power.

If the sanctions are lifted, they will not help the present government, but the future majority-run one, Schwarz argued.

"Apartheid is yesterday's debate; today's debate is a question of negotiations; tomorrow's debate is that of reconstruction for South Africa and making South Africa a better place," he said.

Schwarz expressed confidence that the constitution will institute democratic government in South Africa, and he feels the United States can help in this process by setting an example.

But he emphasized that South Africa will only remain democratic if it can solve its economic problems, of which the most drastic is the need for a million new homes for blacks now living in squalor.

"We are going to have a universal franchise, but you see, ladies and gentlemen, a vote doesn't fill a stomach," he said.

Because of the discrimination and degradation suffered by blacks, they will have great expectations of the new government, despite the country's limited resources, Schwarz said. He observed that this is what is happening in the former communist countries of Eastern Europe.

**No Right To Point Finger At Israel**

"The people who have been deprived, the people who have been discriminated against when the day of freedom comes, I don't want them to turn around and say it isn't any different from what it was before economically," Schwarz said.

He said the United States has "a moral obligation to at least put the thing right," not by extending aid, but through trade and investments.

Schwarz also said that while Israel trades with South Africa, it does so much less than Black Africa and the Arab world do.

"If anybody in this world could have brought South Africa to its knees by means of sanctions or boycotts, it was the Arab states," he said. "They have continued to supply us with oil. They have no right to point a finger at Israel."

Meanwhile, the new ambassador, who arrived here in March, is still looking for a synagogue to attend. "But it will have to be Orthodox," said Schwarz, who is a member of an Orthodox shul in his hometown of Yeoville, a Johannesburg suburb.