

**ISRAELI MINISTERS REACT SHARPLY
TO REPORTS OF CRITICISM BY BAKER**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) -- Israeli Cabinet ministers are incensed over media reports here that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker accused one of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's top aides of trying to undermine the latest U.S. peace efforts in the Middle East.

According to the reports, which have been disputed by some, Baker voiced his complaint last Thursday afternoon at a meeting at the State Department with a delegation of American Jewish leaders. He had met earlier in the day with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

Although Baker mentioned no one by name, his criticism seemed to be directed at Yossi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, the reports said.

But in New York, Malcolm Hoenlein, who was present at the meeting with the secretary of state, said Baker "did not attack Yossi Ben-Aharon or anyone else."

Hoenlein, who is executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said Baker praised Shamir, Levy, Defense Minister Moshe Arens and others for their commitment to the peace process.

But he did indicate that there were "others who did not share the commitment," Hoenlein reported. He said Baker declined to specify who the "others" were.

It was Ben-Aharon, thought to be more hard-line than Shamir himself, who reportedly angered Baker by reopening a problem the secretary believed he had resolved during his lengthy talks with Shamir in Jerusalem last month.

Awareness Of Details Questioned

According to reports reaching here, Ben-Aharon told Baker's senior aide, Dennis Ross, that Shamir was not always aware of every detail and therefore an understanding reached with him in private was not necessarily Israel's final, authoritative word.

Baker and other U.S. officials were said to be "aghast and outraged" by that statement. It was said to apply directly to the vexing question of which Palestinians Israel would accept as negotiating partners.

In his June 6 letter to Baker, Shamir demanded virtual veto power for Israel over who would represent the Palestinians at an eventual peace conference. That was an issue Baker had thought Shamir had agreed to set aside until a later stage.

On Sunday, Shamir reacted protectively to Baker's purported slap at his aide. He made a point of telling the Cabinet that all of his decisions are his alone, are neither made nor influenced by his aides and that he assumes full responsibility for them.

Two hard-line ministers, Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya and Rehavam Ze'evi of Moledet, blasted Baker. Ne'eman complained that the United States is treating Israel "like a protectorate." According to Ze'evi, Baker "insulted" Shamir.

Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer of the National Religious Party agreed

that Baker's reported remarks were "an insult to the prime minister."

Two moderate Likud ministers, Yossi Olmert and Moshe Katsav, also spoke scornfully of Baker.

"Some half-hint about some officials is hardly going to affect the Israel government's policy on major issues," Katsav proclaimed.

Likud militant Eliahu Ben-Elissar, who chairs the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, accused Baker of making Israel "or some people in the entourage of Prime Minister Shamir" scapegoats for the U.S. failure to bring Arab countries to the negotiating table.

No Linkage On Loan Guarantees

In New York, Hoenlein said that he and Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, doubted that any of the participants at the meeting with Baker would have leaked the story, which created a furor in Jerusalem.

Asked to assess Baker's outlook toward the peace process at this time, Hoenlein admitted, "It would be wrong to say that he is not frustrated."

But Baker "indicated that he was committed to continuing it," Hoenlein added.

He said Baker agreed with the Jewish leaders that Israel's planned request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees for immigrant absorption "should not be linked to the peace process."

According to participants, Baker said the issue of Jews in Syria and Yemen was on the administration's agenda. In both countries, Jews are not allowed to freely emigrate and the overall human rights situation is bleak.

Jewish leaders attending the meeting, in addition to Hoenlein and Cardin, were Edward Levy, chairman of the board of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and Thomas Dine, its executive director; David Harris, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee; Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress; Marvin Lender, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; and Max Fisher and George Klein of the National Jewish Coalition, a Jewish Republican group.

(JTA staff writer Aliza Marcus in New York contributed to this report.)

**FIVE WOUNDED IN ISRAEL
IN NEW WAVE OF STABBINGS**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) -- A new wave of stabbings wounded five people in Israel over the weekend.

Military sources blamed "hard-core" intifada activists for the attacks.

Assi Mordechai of Moshav Sde Trumot, near Beit Shean, was knifed in the back by an Arab on Sunday but not seriously hurt.

His assailant was chased and caught by other farmers.

Three workers from Thailand were attacked by an Arab in the fields of Moshav Hamra in the Jordan Valley.

Two were slightly injured. A military helicopter flew the third to a hospital for treatment of moderate wounds.

Two young Arab women were captured Saturday by border police in Jerusalem after

attacking a Jewish tourist from Italy at the Damascus Gate entrance to the walled Old City.

The victim, Rolo Tizari, 32, had been praying at the Western Wall and was leaving the Old City when he was stabbed. He was hospitalized with moderate wounds.

Military sources said the stabbings were planned to counteract recent evidence that the 41-month-old Palestinian uprising is flagging because of popular disenchantment with it.

Military and civilian courts, meanwhile, imposed stiff penalties on Arabs involved in fatal assaults on Israelis.

Ahmad Fares Barud, a resident of Gaza, was sentenced Sunday to life imprisonment plus 35 years by Haifa District Court.

Barud was found guilty of murdering 70-year-old Mordechai Reuchman in his furniture shop in Hadera on March 21.

A Nablus military court imposed life sentences on two Arabs convicted of the 1989 murder of Friedrich Rosenfeld of Ariel in the West Bank. An accomplice was sentenced to 20 years.

BELGIAN OFFICIAL POSTPONES ANSWER TO EURO-ARAB GROUP ON PLO OFFICE By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, June 16 (JTA) -- Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens has put off a delegation of the Euro-Arab Parliamentary Association that is urging Belgium to implement a decision made two years ago to upgrade the status of the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Brussels.

Eyskens said Belgium would have to consult first with its fellow members of the European Community, "because of the sensitivity of this issue in the post-Gulf war period."

The PLO supported Iraq in the Persian Gulf conflict.

The Euro-Arab delegation pointed out that the Belgian Parliament voted in December 1989 to upgrade the PLO office, which functions in Brussels as a "liaison and information bureau" without diplomatic immunity.

PLO supporters are asking that it be given the same status as the PLO office in Paris, which is officially recognized as a "general delegation of Palestine in France."

The Euro-Arab group also urged the E.C. to implement its decision to send a representative to the Israeli-administered territories. Its purpose would be to monitor European aid to the Palestinian population.

The E.C., which inaugurated a program of direct economic aid to the Palestinians in 1987, recently announced a new \$12 million grant to improve their economic and social conditions.

The Israeli government has been reluctant to allow the E.C. to send a special emissary to the territories, as the E.C. already has an ambassador in Tel Aviv.

The issue seemed to be resolved at Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy's discussions with three E.C. foreign ministers in Paris earlier this month.

Israel was said to have agreed to an E.C. representative whose activities would be confined to "humanitarian and technical" matters.

But details have yet to be worked out between the Israelis and Abel Matutes, the E.C.'s commissioner for Mediterranean affairs.

Matutes, who is Spanish, is expected to visit Israel next month.

Eyskens has proposed to Israel that the E.C.

install its representative for the territories at the Belgian Consulate General in East Jerusalem.

"We are still waiting for an Israeli response, but I think that at a certain time, the European Commission will have to unilaterally decide to send a delegate and then see the consequences of this," Eyskens was quoted as saying during a visit to Cairo last week.

SOVIET EXPERT AT SHOW TELLS ISRAELIS OF VIABLE JOINT MISSILE DEVELOPMENT By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, June 16 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union may be interested in collaborating with Israel in the development of anti-missile missiles, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned.

At least that was hinted when Boris Bunkin, head of the Moscow-based avionics company ALMAZ, and officials of Rafael, the Israeli government's Armament and Development Authority, exchanged visits to each other's pavilions at the Paris Air Show on Saturday.

Bunkin came to the Rafael office and "introduced himself. We exchanged our calling cards and took pictures together," Rafael spokesman Noah Shahar told JTA.

"Then he said he knew about Rafael's capability in the field of missiles and explained that his company was building a system very similar to the U.S. Patriot" anti-missile missile.

Bunkin said "his is capable of knocking out a missile at a height of 15.5 miles and a distance of 55 miles," Shahar said. "He asked us to come over to see his exhibition at the Soviet pavilion. We did just that. There we got a briefing about ALMAZ's facilities, and Boris Bunkin added that his anti-missile system was about to be marketed.

"He then said something about a remote possibility of a collaboration in that field with Rafael. We listened very carefully, and that's it for the time being," Shahar said.

"We just don't know how serious this is. We're part of the Israeli defense establishment, and we transmitted the information to upper levels," the Rafael spokesman said.

Bunkin could not be reached for comment.

ISRAELIS LINKED TO U.S. BRIBE CASE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 16 (JTA) -- Two Israel Defense Force reserve generals have refused to comment on allegations linking them with a former Pentagon official who pleaded guilty Friday to federal conspiracy and bribery charges related to weapons procurement.

Melvyn Paisley, a former assistant secretary of the Navy, is said to have named reserve Maj. Gen. Uri Simchoni, a former military attache at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, and reserve Brig. Gen. Zvi Schiller, former director-general of the Mazlat Co., among American and foreign executives involved in illicit deals.

The persons named may have offered bribes or kickbacks in connection with a desired U.S. Navy contract to purchase Mazlat's drone used for reconnaissance.

The deal reportedly fell through after the pilotless aircraft failed initial tests and Mazlat stopped production.

Officials here are said to be waiting for a detailed report of the hearings in Washington before deciding if there is reason to investigate any Israelis.

SHAMIR TRIES TO CALM IRATE PROTESTERS AFTER PERETZ SLAMS 'GODLESS KIBBUTZIM'

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir tried to calm tempers Sunday as thousands of kibbutzniks and their supporters demanded that he fire Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz for insulting the kibbutz movement. They were backed by at least one Cabinet minister and more than a few Knesset members.

Peretz, an Orthodox rabbi, stirred a furious controversy when he accused kibbutzim on television last week of turning immigrants from Morocco and other Arab countries away from religious Judaism in the 1950s.

He claimed that caused the high crime rate among Sephardic Jews, who happen to be the most deprived socio-economic class in Israel.

Peretz was objecting to the temporary housing of several hundred recent olim from Ethiopia at what he called "godless kibbutzim."

He aroused the wrath of, among others, Mooki Tsur, secretary of TAKAM, the United Kibbutz Movement, and Rehavam Ze'evi, a minister without portfolio who is leader of the far right-wing Moledet party.

Thousands of kibbutz members and supporters from all over the country streamed into the amphitheater at Kibbutz Shefayim for a solidarity rally Sunday. Among many public figures seen in the crowd was Shimon Peres, chairman of the opposition Labor Party, and Tehiya Knesset member Gershon Shafat.

A smaller demonstration was held Sunday outside the Prime Minister's Office. Several dozen youths demanded that Peretz resign.

The Histadrut Central Committee also demanded Sunday that Shamir dismiss Peretz. Yisrael Kessar, secretary-general of the trade union federation, said the recent outburst made him unfit to serve in the government.

Shamir, who needs the religious bloc to keep his governing coalition intact, was able to defuse the conflict at Sunday's Cabinet meeting because Peretz was conveniently out sick.

Shamir Calls For Unity

In response to Ze'evi, who demanded that Peretz apologize, Shamir said he could hardly ask for an apology from a minister who was absent.

Nevertheless, Shamir reiterated his regret over Peretz's remarks, "which caused controversy over aliyah and absorption, an issue we all should be united on."

He called on all parties to refrain from "unnecessary" internal strife and stressed there is no question of the right of kibbutzim to absorb immigrants, "on condition that the norms important to the olim will be observed."

Peretz insisted Sunday that he would not retract his charges. But he said he was ready to talk it over with leaders of the kibbutz movement and claimed he had been misunderstood.

In accusing the secular kibbutzim of enticing immigrants away from religion, the absorption minister used the word "shmad," which is usually translated to mean conversion to Christianity.

Peretz explained in a radio interview Sunday that he used the term in its broader Talmudic meaning to mean coercing Jews to cease observing the strictures and mitzvot imposed by the Torah.

Tsur, meanwhile, said he is ready to discuss the issue with Peretz as a rabbi but not before he resigns from the government.

ORGAN DONATIONS AUTHORIZED BY ORTHODOX RABBINIC GROUP

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA) -- In a landmark decision by an Orthodox rabbinical group, the Rabbinical Council of America has approved organ donation as permissible, even required, from brain-dead patients.

The endorsement, made last week at the group's annual convention, puts the 1,000-member group, the world's largest body of Orthodox rabbis, at odds with some other Orthodox authorities, who do not agree that the cessation of brain function indicates death according to Jewish law.

In authorizing organ donation, the RCA has affirmed that "pikuach nefesh," or saving of life, is of utmost importance.

The position was taken at the group's yearly convocation, held at the Homowack Lodge in Spring Glen, N.Y., as part of a health care proxy developed by the RCA for distribution by health care providers.

New federal guidelines, to go into effect in December, will require that every health care provider make available to patients a proxy, designating someone to be the patient's "agent to make any and all health care decisions" in case the patient is incapacitated.

The section of the RCA's proxy addressing organ donation reads: "The saving of a life takes precedence over all but three halachic imperatives -- murder, idolatry and adultery."

"Therefore, no halachic barriers exist to donation of the organs of the deceased if they are harvested in accord with the highest standards of dignity and propriety," the proxy says.

"Vital organs such as heart and liver may be donated after the patient has been declared dead by a competent neurologist based upon the clinical and/or radiological evidence," it says.

"Since organs that can be life-saving may be donated, the family is urged to do so. When human life can be saved, it must be saved."

Rabbi Dr. Moshe Tendler of Yeshiva University, a well-known Torah scholar who chairs the RCA Bio-Ethics Commission, developed the proxy.

In addition to designating an agent, the proxy also has an optional instruction that directs the agent to consult with Orthodox halachic authorities before making decisions.

RCA CALLS FOR BAN ON SMOKING

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA) -- The dangers of passive cigarette smoke have moved from the pages of the scientific journals to the agenda of the Rabbinical Council of America.

During its annual conference last week, the modern Orthodox rabbinic group passed a resolution calling smoking a desecration of God's name and banning smoking from all public council functions and meetings.

The resolution, adopted June 12, also calls on its members "to sensitize their congregations to the severity of the halachic prohibition of exposing people to second-hand smoke," and accordingly to establish a smoke-free environment in the synagogue at all times.

It also urges its members to establish smoke-free environments in Jewish schools and youth groups, and to set an example by not smoking themselves.

**DUKE AND HIS FOLLOWERS DISRUPT
LOUISIANA REPUBLICAN CONVENTION**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA) -- David Duke, the former Ku Klux Klan leader who has subverted Louisiana politics with his mixture of white-supremacist convictions and populist oratory, made a mockery of the state Republican convention on Saturday, which had been convened to choose a gubernatorial candidate.

The upshot of the unorthodox proceedings, which incumbent Gov. Buddy Roemer boycotted altogether, was that Clyde Holloway, a congressman from central Louisiana with voter support similar to Duke's, took the party endorsement.

But that does not mean that Duke, a state legislator from Metairie who founded the National Association for the Advancement of White People, and Roemer will not compete for Louisiana governor come September, when the non-partisan state primary takes place.

Refusing to sign the mandatory party loyalty pledge, which states that a non-endorsed candidate will get out of the race, Duke strode defiantly around Lafayette's Cajun Dome, while his followers became enraged with the proceedings, according to Beth Rickey, a Republican committeewoman from New Orleans.

"Duke kept storming the podium to try to speak, physically pushing, but the chair would not let him speak," she said in a telephone interview.

Some handcuffed themselves to the podium, saying they "wanted to be arrested for David," she said. It "was virtually a Duke conference," according to Rickey, who had just spent a week addressing Jewish groups in Atlanta.

One of the 1,400 delegates stood up, was recognized by the chair and then yielded his right to Duke, said Rickey. He was declared out of order and there was an hour-long riot, she said, with Duke "egging them on."

'One Step Away From Duke'

Holloway, too, offered to let Duke speak, which he did, saying he would not attack Holloway if he were chosen but would attack Roemer's candidacy.

A convention singer was silenced when he attempted to sing a patriotic American song and was urged to sing "Dixie" instead, said Rickey, a 20-year-veteran of state Republican politics who supports Roemer's candidacy.

The keynote speaker, former U.S. drug czar William Bennett, was booed and unable to finish his speech, she said.

Jarred by the antics, Rickey walked out of the convention, followed by black delegates.

Roemer, a recent convert to the Republican Party, declined to attend for reasons of state. He has been caught up in a testy vote over an abortion bill, which he vetoed on Friday.

Holloway, a man who speaks of himself in the third person and whom Rickey described as "one step away from Duke," draws on the same voters as Duke, including those who do not like blacks or Jews. But Holloway also attracts the traditionally conservative, Rickey said.

"We have an unusual situation. The sitting governor is not the official candidate," she said.

Nevertheless, the endorsement means little, since the state Republican party has nearly no money and the September primary is open. All candidates can run, and the two top vote-getters face a runoff in November.

**2,000 NEO-NAZIS MARCH IN DRESDEN
IN LARGEST SUCH DISPLAY IN YEARS**

By David Kantor

BONN, June 16 (JTA) -- About 2,000 neo-Nazis marched Saturday through the northern suburbs of Dresden in what some spectators described as the most spectacular demonstration by the extreme right wing in recent memory.

There were few incidents, mainly because the marchers, mostly young men, were accompanied by hundreds of riot police. But state television crews were attacked at some points along the route and there were a few brief skirmishes with anti-Nazi protesters.

Police reported 18 arrests in the course of weapons searches. Clubs and other crude weapons were confiscated.

The marchers carried flags and banners with swastika-like devices that avoided violating the law against the display of Nazi symbols.

Heinz Galinski, chairman of Germany's Jewish community, had urged the authorities to ban the march. But Jewish protests were rejected on grounds that a ban would only increase the likelihood of violence and popularize the extremists.

According to estimates, at least half of the neo-Nazi marchers came from former West Germany.

But Justice Minister Steffen Heitmann of the federal state of Saxony in former East Germany, of which Dresden is capital, blamed the former Communist regime for the neo-Nazi phenomenon.

Heitmann said the Communists failed to deal seriously with the Nazi past while indoctrinating the youth to blindly obey an oppressive, authoritarian system.

The Dresden march was a memorial to Rainer Sonntag, the 36-year-old leader of an extreme right-wing group who was killed outside a board-up adult movie theater on May 31.

Neo-Nazis have recently embarked on a crusade for "purity" and have targeted prostitutes. Sonntag was killed after declaring he intended to get rid of the sex shops and clubs that have arisen in Dresden since the East German Communist regime fell in 1989.

VIRGINIA GOVERNOR PRAISES ADL
By Mark Frankel

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA) -- The work of the Anti-Defamation League in countering "man's inhumanity to man" was praised here Friday by Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder.

Wilder, the nation's first black governor, hailed the ADL for providing benefits to all people in America through its work to combat hate crimes.

The ADL has been steadfast in refusing to allow Jews "to become victims again through intimidation," said Wilder. "It is important that we report every act of anti-Semitism and hate, so we can effectively combat its spreading."

Wilder said that as a boy growing up in Virginia, he could not understand why others, besides the ADL and B'nai B'rith, were not out there combatting hate crimes.

Wilder said he had just returned from Warsaw, where he visited the site of the Warsaw Ghetto. Without the benefits of freedom and the combatting of hate groups, he asked, "would we be put to death for worshipping God the way they (the Jews) wanted?"