

**COMMERCE DEPT. WARNS U.S. EXPORTERS  
FINE FOR BOYCOTT COMPLIANCE MAY RISE**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 11 (JTA) -- American exporters have been put on notice that the U.S. Commerce Department supports increasing fines against companies that participate in the Arab boycott against Israel to \$50,000 for each civil violation.

This would put civil penalties, which now cannot exceed \$10,000 per violation, at the same \$50,000 level for fines for criminal violations. The Commerce Department has rarely sought criminal penalties.

Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher voiced support for the five-fold increase Tuesday in an address to some 600 representatives of U.S. exporters attending a conference sponsored by the department's Bureau of Export Administration. The Office of Anti-Boycott Compliance is part of the bureau.

Until the Arab countries agree to end the boycott, the anti-boycott office "will strictly enforce prohibitions against direct or indirect participation of U.S. companies in the boycott," Mosbacher pledged.

He also promised to beef up the anti-boycott office to its authorized complement of 30 persons. Critics have charged that the office has not been able to fulfill its duties because it has been understaffed for years.

Since the end of the Persian Gulf War, "administration officials have personally conveyed to Arab leaders this administration's firm belief that the time is right to abandon both the primary and secondary boycotts of Israel," Mosbacher said.

"We are convinced that a strong diplomatic effort and the continued commitment of U.S. industry to strictly comply with the anti-boycott program will move the Arab nations to discontinue it," he said.

**Decline In Investigations**

The increase in civil penalties is contained in the bill to reauthorize the Export Administration Act, which Congress must pass this year.

The Office of Anti-Boycott Compliance has been criticized for a sharp decline in the number of investigations during the last two years.

One critic, Joe Kamalick, editor of the Boycott Law Bulletin in Houston, attributed the drop to the fact that the office has been chronically understaffed.

He said in a telephone interview Thursday with a staff of 18, there is "no way" the office could adequately monitor some 5,000 U.S. companies that sell goods abroad.

The office is supposed to check every company that is taken off the Arab League's official boycott list to see whether the reason is illegal compliance, but it has been unable to do so, Kamalick said.

Kamalick criticized the Commerce Department for failing to seek criminal penalties. And he faulted the department for chiefly going after small- and medium-size companies that have no in-house lawyers to advise them of violations. However, he conceded that some major firms have

been fined, including Safeway, Sara Lee and Xerox.

Kamalick said that increasing the maximum civil penalty would give the anti-boycott office another stick to ensure compliance. He said the office has been reluctant to use the ultimate civil penalty, which would be to revoke a company's license to export.

Meanwhile, 83 senators have signed a letter to President Bush urging him to press for anti-boycott measures when he goes to London next week for the meeting of the seven major industrialized nations.

"We must implore our trading partners to examine their own policies toward the boycott, and urge them to pass legislation which prohibits private-sector compliance," said the letter, which was drafted by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.).

The senators emphasized that the United States cannot succeed by itself in getting the Arab nations to end the boycott.

"If the industrialized countries are unified in their approach, the Arab countries can be convinced to end their boycott against businesses that do have economic relations with Israel," the letter said.

**LEBANON MAY BE LOOKING TO U.N.  
TO RID ITSELF OF ISRAELI TROOPS**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 11 (JTA) -- The Beirut government may look to a U.N. peacekeeping force as a means of getting Israel and its allied South Lebanon Army out of southern Lebanon.

It is expected to try when U.N. Undersecretary-General Marrack Goulding meets government officials in Lebanon next week. He will also visit Syria and Israel.

Goulding will discuss the mandate of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, which expires July 15.

The Security Council, which reviews UNIFIL every six months, is expected to extend the life of the nine-nation peacekeeping force it established in 1978.

But President Elias Hrawi of Lebanon would like its area of operations expanded to include the areas presently controlled by Israel and the SLA, reports from Lebanon said.

UNIFIL sources promptly expressed doubt that such a change is feasible.

The Lebanese, however, are expected to be persistent in their search for international support.

Hrawi's Syrian-protected Lebanese army now exercises effective control over southern Lebanon, except for the regions patrolled by the lightly armed UNIFIL and the heavily armed Israel Defense Force and SLA.

The SLA -- trained, equipped and financed by Israel -- polices the southern Lebanon security zone, a 6-mile-deep by 50-mile-long buffer zone established by Israel in 1985 to protect its northern settlements from terrorist attacks.

The SLA, in addition, controls a Maronite Christian enclave north of the zone, centered on the town of Jezzine.

While Beirut is anxious to oust the Israeli and allied armed forces from Lebanese soil, it has

been silent about the Syrian troops, who occupy much more extensive areas of Lebanon, including the Bekaa Valley in the east.

The Lebanese army says it has succeeded in its mission to disarm the various factional forces that have turned southern Lebanon into a perpetual battleground for the past 16 years.

From Israel's point of view, the most dangerous of them is the Palestine Liberation Organization. While the PLO was forced to surrender its positions in the port towns of Sidon and Tyre, it remains entrenched in the crowded Palestinian refugee camps near both cities.

In an obvious face-saving ploy, PLO chief Yasir Arafat announced from Tunis that his forces were "donating" their medium and heavy weapons to the official Lebanese army.

Israelis say he was attempting to create the impression that the PLO is cooperating voluntarily with the Lebanese forces, which until now have been considered ineffectual.

The PLO fighters, nevertheless, have been allowed to retain small arms and personal weapons to guard the refugee camps. Their number is estimated at 10,000.

#### IDF SOLDIERS DISCIPLINED AFTER TERRORISTS HIT OUTPOST By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 11 (JTA) -- Two Israel Defense Force reservists were barred from further combat duty and their commanding officer was severely reprimanded following an investigation into the successful guerrilla raid on an IDF outpost near the Syrian border July 3.

Staff Sgt. Ehud Ben-Mordechai, a 26-year-old reserve soldier, was killed in an attack at dawn by terrorists who apparently passed through Syrian lines and escaped the same way.

The Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed credit for the attack.

The outpost on the slopes of Mount Hermon, where Ben-Mordechai was on guard duty when he was killed, had been considered one of the safest IDF positions. There had been no attacks from the nearby Syrian positions for 16 years.

Immediately after the incident, the troops guarding the outpost were absolved of guilt. The IDF chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, and the commander of the northern region, Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, agreed that the men performed properly.

But a subsequent investigation determined that their reaction to enemy fire had been much too slow and their pursuit of the attackers ineffective.

The two reservists held responsible were reassigned to non-combat duties.

The officer in command of the outpost was formally rebuked by his commander for failing to "do what was expected of him in an incident of this kind."

Military sources said the episode cast doubt over the effectiveness of reserve soldiers. In recent months, reservists have failed to prevent terrorist infiltrators from Jordan from penetrating IDF outposts, and several IDF casualties have resulted.

Some military observers say the decline of combat readiness may be due to the IDF's preoccupation with the intifada over the last three years, stressing police methods at the expense of military training.

#### SHAMIR INVITED TO ADDRESS E.C., A SIGN OF IMPROVING RELATIONS By Yossi Lempkowicz

STRASBOURG, France, July 11 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel has been invited to address the European Parliament, the European Community's legislative body, based here.

No date was announced. But the invitation, extended by the president of the Parliament, Enrique Baron Crespo, to a visiting Knesset delegation is symptomatic of rapidly improving relations between the E.C. and the Jewish state.

That was underlined by the invitation Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky sent Baron Crespo, a Spanish Socialist, to visit Israel, possibly in October.

A visit by the head of the European Parliament would be especially significant, considering that only last year the Parliament was the E.C. institution most sharply critical of Israel's policies in the administered territories.

The Parliament, in fact, recommended a freeze on European scientific cooperation with Israel, which the European Executive Commission adopted.

The sanction was lifted only last January, after Israel's restraint while under Scud missile attack by Iraq won it Europe's praise.

The visiting Knesset group representing various parties is headed by Reuven Rivlin of Likud.

The Knesset delegation was invited to Strasbourg to mark the first anniversary of the creation of the Israel-Europe group within the European Assembly, which consists of members of European parliaments from a variety of political parties.

The group is headed by Willy de Clercq, a liberal member of Parliament from Belgium who is a former Cabinet minister and former European commissioner.

#### E.C. Envoy Leaving Post

Meanwhile, the diplomatic community, along with Belgian Jewry, was surprised to learn this week that Israel's ambassador to Belgium and the E.C., Avi Primor, will be returning to Israel two years before his present tour of duty expires.

Primor, who came to Brussels in 1987, is widely admired for his diplomatic skills. He is presently in Jerusalem attending talks between top government officials and the European commissioner for Mediterranean affairs, Abel Matutes.

Primor will remain there for the visit later in the week by Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens.

Primor reportedly asked to be relieved of his post by the end of September to return to Israel, where he may join the Hebrew University as its vice chairman in charge of international relations.

After his departure, Israel will have two envoys in Brussels -- one accredited to Belgium and Luxembourg and the other exclusively to the E.C.

The new ambassador to Belgium, already named, is Yitzhak Meir, a career diplomat of Belgian origin.

No one has been appointed ambassador to the E.C., but the most likely candidate seems to be Mordechai Drori, currently Israel's ambassador to Italy, who will be replaced by Avi Pazner, chief press spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

## WITNESS AT SCHWAMMBERGER TRIAL TESTIFIES ON DEFENDANT'S BRUTALITY

By David Kantor

BONN, July 11 (JTA) -- Josef Schwammberger was confronted by one of his surviving victims Wednesday in the Stuttgart courthouse trying him for Nazi war crimes.

A 65-year-old Israeli, Max Millner, swore he saw the defendant shoot concentration camp inmates to death on three occasions at the Rozwadow camp, near Krakow.

That was one of three concentration camps in Poland where Schwammberger, now 79, served as commandant in the Waffen SS.

Survivors of the Przemysl and Mielec camps, also commanded by Schwammberger, testified that he smashed children's heads on a wall and threw people into a bonfire.

The accused, extradited from Argentina last year, has been charged with at least 45 counts of murder and complicity in the murders of 3,377 individuals, most of them Jewish slave laborers.

Millner told the court that he saw Schwammberger murder a rabbi named Fraenkel in Rozwadow on Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. The witness said the rabbi was shot for urging Jewish inmates to observe the 24-hour fast.

## SUSPECTED WAR CRIMINAL FREE ON BAIL

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, July 11 (JTA) -- Suspected war criminal Paul Touvier was released on \$10,000 bail Wednesday, despite the urging of the state prosecution that he be held in jail pending trial on charges of crimes against humanity.

The decision to accept his bail request was made by a closed court, which gave no reason.

But the suspect's passport was confiscated, he was barred from talking to the news media and he must report to the police once a week.

Touvier, who headed the pro-Nazi militia in Lyon during World War II, was twice tried in absentia and condemned to death in 1946 and 1947. But the police never apprehended him.

He and his wife, reportedly aided by elements of the Catholic Church, hid out in various convents until 1971, when he was secretly pardoned by President Georges Pompidou.

Touvier remained a free man until new evidence led to reopening his case. He was arrested in July 1989 hiding at a convent in Nice.

## OIL FOUND NEAR ASHDOD

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 11 (JTA) -- An oil strike Thursday near Ashdod sent hopes soaring that Israel may yet find the precious resource it has been seeking for 40 years.

"It's only a matter of time and money," oil experts here said, after learning of the gusher at the Heletz oil exploration site worked by the Nafta Oil Prospecting Co.

The company indicated Wednesday that it found traces of oil and gas and they planned to continue drilling to a depth of 5,200 feet.

The oil came in Thursday at slightly over 5,100 feet and the well, known as Kochav hole 32, was immediately capped.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange halted trading in domestic oil shares for one week as soon as the strike was announced, to avoid speculation.

## LIMOUSINES ARRIVE AT COURT AS BANK SCANDAL TRIAL OPENS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 11 (JTA) -- A fleet of limousines bearing former top bank executives drew up before the Jerusalem District Court on Thursday for the opening of a trial many Israelis believe is being held eight years too late.

The defendants are the former chairmen and other ranking officials of Israel's largest banks.

They are accused of manipulating the stocks their banks issued the public in a way that precipitated a crash on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, which wiped out the savings of thousands of investors in 1983.

The scandal was investigated by a judicial commission, headed by Chaim Beisky of the High Court of Justice. It recommended in 1986 that the bankers involved be barred for life from working for Israeli banks.

Another three years passed before Attorney General Yosef Harish decided there was insufficient evidence to indict anyone.

Harish's decision was overruled on appeal to the High Court of Justice, which ordered a criminal trial. The deadline for civil action to recover lost funds expired in October 1990.

Absent from the courtroom is one of the prime defendants, Ernst Japhet, former chairman and chief executive officer of Bank Leumi.

Forced to retire in 1986, Japhet moved to New York, where he works as a consultant to banks. Sources there said he has no intention of returning to Israel for the trial.

Nevertheless, the High Court here ruled Monday that Japhet must return part of the inflated severance pay he arranged for himself before resigning. It also cut his pension in half.

## DUTCH CHURCH TO GIVE UP MENORAH THAT BELONGED TO JEWS WHO PERISHED

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, July 11 (JTA) -- A Protestant congregation in rural Holland has finally agreed to part with a menorah that once belonged to a Jewish couple who died in the Holocaust. The congregation, in the Rhine village of Alphen near the German border, has agreed to donate the artifact to the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum in Jerusalem.

In exchange, it will receive a replica of a large menorah now at Yad Vashem.

The agreement is the result of delicate negotiations by the Israeli ambassador to the Netherlands, Michael Bawly.

When the Nazis occupied Holland in 1940, the Jewish couple in Alphen hid their menorah under the floor of the local synagogue. They were soon deported and perished, as did every Jewish family of that village.

The synagogue therefore was not restored after the war. The building was acquired by the Protestant congregation in 1955, but the buried menorah was found only in 1980.

The only surviving Jew from Alphen, a woman now living in Israel, insisted it should be given to Israel. The church refused, saying the menorah was a gift from the nephew of the couple who buried it, their sole surviving heir.

Amsterdam's Ashkenazic rabbi, Lody van de Kamp, set up a committee to get it restored to Jewish ownership. The Israeli envoy then intervened to defuse an emotional quarrel.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**

**INTERMARRIAGE FINALLY HITS HOME  
IN CONSERVATIVE BRANCH OF JUDAISM**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Intermarriage has snuck up on the Conservative movement of Judaism.

It's not that Conservative leaders have ignored the problem, which has been an issue for them, to some extent, since the mid-1960s. But it is beginning to have an impact on the movement in ways they never expected.

Intermarriage, they thought, really only affected Reform Jews.

Now Conservative leaders are waking up to the fact that ever-increasing rates of intermarriage promise to transform Conservative Judaism.

Common wisdom held that the rate of intermarriage within the Conservative movement was holding steady at about 5 percent.

But the Council of Jewish Federations' 1990 National Jewish Population Survey reveals that 28 percent of all married Jews raised in Conservative homes are wedded to non-Jews.

And among those Jews raised in Conservative homes who have married since 1985, 42 percent wed non-Jews, according to sociologist Egon Mayer, who is writing a monograph on intermarriage patterns based on data from the CJF survey.

Intermarriage among Jews who identify themselves as Conservative is now increasing at nearly the same rate as it is for those who identify themselves as Reform, Mayer noted.

"One cannot overestimate the seriousness of this threat to the future of the Jewish people," Rabbi Irwin Groner, president of the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly, said at its annual convention in April.

"Even if the Jewish partners in interfaith marriages retain their Jewish identity, in whatever form, the likelihood of that identity being transmitted to children and grandchildren has been catastrophically reduced."

**'Buried Its Head In The Sand'**

While it has taken a position on intermarriage since the early 1960s, Conservative Judaism has not addressed the ramifications of the trend and has "buried its head in the sand," said Rabbi Gilbert Kollin, chairman of the Rabbinical Association's Committee on Keruv and Giyur (outreach and conversion).

As a result, "Conservative congregations are perceived by interfaith couples as uncomfortable at best. We've been sending some of our best people to the Reform movement," he said.

The Conservative approach has been to try to discourage intermarriage, on the one hand, while also welcoming intermarried couples to the synagogue and encouraging their conversion.

The problem is finding ways to translate this approach into action. The goal is to develop programs to strengthen Jewish identity, encourage marriage within the faith, and make Conservative Judaism attractive to the non-Jewish spouses of intermarried Jews.

At its April convention, the Rabbinical Assembly approved a resolution urging every level of the movement to make programmatic responses to intermarriage a priority.

But past attempts to create policy have been unsuccessful because of the wide range of viewpoints within the movement.

At the April convention, two of the three proposed resolutions about intermarriage -- the

two which would have clarified Rabbinical Assembly policy in dealing with the non-Jewish spouses and non-Jewish children of intermarried families in the congregation -- were sent back to committee because of deep divisions among the rabbis.

As a result of the diversity of views, it "may take a couple of years to come up with a blueprint for outreach that the Rabbinical Assembly and United Synagogue will accept," Kollin said, referring to Conservative Jewry's rabbinical and congregational associations.

**Danger Of Overreacting To Problem**

But that's fine, according to Rabbi Stephen Lerner, director of the Center for Conversion to Judaism in Ridgefield Park, N.J. Lerner, who from 1984 to 1986 chaired what was then known as the Rabbinical Assembly's Giyur Committee, believes the problem of intermarriage "is so massive that you can overreact."

"We must make a distinction between those who have elected to be Jews and those who have not," he said. "There's a danger in blurring that distinction in an eagerness to find solutions."

The ideology of the Conservative movement -- adherence to tradition with acceptance of modernity -- makes dealing with intermarriage more difficult for Conservative Jews than it is for Orthodox or Reform Jews.

Leaders of the movement eschew the ideological purity maintained by the Orthodox, recognizing that the future of Conservative Judaism will necessitate including interfaith couples in the congregational life of the synagogue.

At the same time, Conservative leaders want to make sure that a distinction remains between their approach and that of the Reform movement, which changed its definition of Jewishness when it formally adopted the concept of patrilineal descent in 1983.

The importance of that distinction permeates the Conservative movement's approach, down to its choice of words: using the Hebrew term "keruv" -- which literally means "bringing near" -- rather than the English word "outreach."

"It is one thing to reach out, to expand the boundary, lessen requirements, become more inclusive," said Kollin of the Keruv and Giyur Committee.

"Keruv is bringing people in to existing boundaries. We are not changing the definition of who is a Jew, but reaching out to bring them into the organized Jewish community," he said.

**Mutually Exclusive Values?**

Coming to grips with the trend and its implications presents complicated challenges to Conservative rabbis and other leaders.

One of the most difficult challenges is accepting the tension inherent in the contradiction of viewing intermarriage as a threat to Jewish survival and refusing to officiate at such unions, while at the same time having Conservative congregations welcome non-Jewish spouses and children the movement hopes to convert.

"There are mutually exclusive values involved: preserving Judaism and being open to people," explained United Synagogue's executive vice president, Rabbi Jerome Epstein.

Rabbi Gordon Tucker, dean of the rabbinical school at the Jewish Theological Seminary, does not agree. "We can be against something in the strongest way and still be able to deal with it," he said. "We do not have to consider it tum'a (impurity)."