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**BUSH ATTEMPTS TO MAKE PEACE  
WITH AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS**

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- President Bush sought Tuesday to make peace with the American Jewish community, which has been upset for months over his tough stand on an Israeli request for U.S. guarantees covering \$10 billion in loans needed for immigrant resettlement.

At a late-afternoon meeting here with a delegation of American Jewish leaders, the president gave what was described as a heartfelt apology for making statements in September that were perceived by the Jewish community to be a direct attack on the pro-Israel lobby.

Bush also indicated that he is trying to set up a meeting in Washington next week with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who will be in the United States to address the annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in Baltimore.

But the president refused to discuss the burning issue between the United States and Israel -- the loan guarantees and their linkage to Israel's settlement-building policy -- until the 120-day delay in congressional action that he requested in September has expired.

"It's open in January. We'll take it up at that time," Bush was quoted as saying.

The president did say, however, that he is committed to providing humanitarian assistance for the resettlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in Israel, according to Shoshana Cardin, chairman of both the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The Jewish leaders conferred with Bush for more than an hour in the first such meeting since February. They were invited by the White House, a clear indication that Bush wanted to make amends.

**'Understand That I Hurt Some People'**

The president said he was very troubled that some of his remarks had been taken as "hurtful words."

"I understand that I hurt some people and that I may have unwittingly resurrected some ugly feelings," the president was quoted as saying by Marvin Hier, dean of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, who attended the meeting.

"I certainly would not want to exacerbate anti-Semitism. And I intend to find the appropriate venues to correct that impression," Hier quoted him as saying.

Cardin, who met privately with Bush prior to the larger meeting, said she and the other Jewish leaders felt encouraged by the president's sincerity and good will.

But Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said it is "quite clear" that Bush will not "back away" on linking the loan guarantees to the issue of Israeli settlements.

Summing up the meeting, Siegman said, "We will probably continue to disagree on issues, but will not express the disagreement in ways that can be misconstrued."

Cardin quoted Bush as saying that he feels the "time is right" to seek a repeal of the 1975

U.N. General Assembly resolution denigrating Zionism as a form of racism.

Bush also was quoted as saying that he is aware of an increase of anti-Semitism in the country and will not tolerate it. He reiterated his opposition to former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke's bid for the Louisiana governorship.

The president insisted that his support for Israel is rock solid, that he backs the right of Soviet Jews to immigrate there and is committed to maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge.

He said the United States is committed to an undivided Jerusalem, but that details on the city's permanent status would have to be worked out by the various parties to the Middle East conflict.

He also praised Shamir for heading the Israeli delegation to the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, calling it a positive contribution.

**Contrast To September Remarks**

Bush's attitude Tuesday was a far cry from his lectern-pounding performance at a Sept. 12 White House news conference, when he expressed concern that congressional debate over Israel's loan guarantee request would derail the Middle East peace conference the United States was then trying to engineer.

Referring to some 1,000 pro-Israel activists who had arrived in Washington that day to lobby on behalf of the loan guarantees, Bush said he was one "lonely" guy "up against some powerful political forces."

Joining Bush in the meeting Tuesday were White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, Dennis Ross of the State Department's policy planning staff and Richard Haas of the National Security Council.

In addition to Cardin, Siegman and Hier, Jewish participants included Rabbi Moshe Sherer of Agudath Israel of America, Meyer Mitchell of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Alfred Moses of the American Jewish Committee, Abraham Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League, Kent Schiner of B'nai B'rith International, Malcolm Hoenlein of the Conference of Presidents.

Also, Charles Goodman of the Council of Jewish Federations, Deborah Kaplan of Hadassah, George Klein of the National Jewish Coalition, Rabbi Alexander Schindler of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Sheldon Rudoff of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Marvin Lender of the United Jewish Appeal, Alan Tichnor of the United Synagogue of America, Edgar Bronfman of the World Jewish Congress and veteran Jewish leader Max Fisher.

**COALITION CRISIS ERUPTS OVER FUNDS  
SET ASIDE FOR ULTRA-ORTHODOX SCHOOLS**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- The government withdrew its annual budget bill from the Knesset agenda Tuesday because of a dispute among the religious parties in the coalition that could lead to its collapse and early elections.

Officials said the move seriously impaired the parliament's ability to prepare the budget for its second and third readings in the plenum, originally planned for early next year.

The budget measure passed its first reading

with the support of several left-wing opposition factions and would probably fare as well in its final readings, thereby preserving the Likud-led government.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir obviously does not relish the idea of being sustained in office with the help of the left-wing Citizens Rights Movement, Mapam party and Center-Shinui Movement.

The National Religious Party, which has five seats in the Knesset, advised Shamir that it will not support the budget bill as long as it contains "special funding" for schools operated by the haredi, or ultra-Orthodox, parties.

The haredi bloc -- Shas, Agudat Yisrael and Degel HaTorah -- which commands 13 votes in the Knesset, vowed to oppose the budget if their "special allocations" are omitted.

All of the parties are Orthodox. The NRP, unlike the haredi factions, is affiliated with Mizrahi, the religious Zionist movement.

#### **NRP Will 'Fight To The End'**

The issue of special subsidies for haredi institutions has been a source of public controversy and political strife for years. The NRP blames it for bringing down hatred on the entire Orthodox establishment.

It proposes that the religious school system be funded out of the general budget, to ensure fair allocations and proper supervision.

Haredi politicians charge the NRP with political motives and accuse it of mounting the most violent attack "on the education of Jewish children since the evil decrees of the Romans."

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, an NRP veteran, said he was unfazed by the haredi attack and vowed his party would "fight to the end" against special privileges.

He said there was no chance this year of "buying off" the NRP with "special funds" for its own Torah institutions.

Moreover, Hammer thinks it would be no great tragedy if the elections, scheduled to be held next November, are advanced. The worst that could happen is that the people will vote a few months sooner, he said.

#### **EGYPTIANS EAGER TO COOPERATE WITH ISRAEL AFTER INFILTRATION** **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- Egyptian authorities seemed anxious to cooperate as Israel prepared to lodge a formal protest with Cairo over the infiltration of four heavily armed men across the Sinai border into the Negev early Monday morning.

The intruders were killed in a brief gun battle with an Israel Defense Force patrol several miles inside Israel. There were no Israeli casualties.

Israel wants to know from Egypt how the gang managed to cross a wide stretch of the Sinai desert undetected although the region is supposed to be heavily patrolled. It wants assurances that measures will be taken to prevent future intrusions.

The Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv, Mohammed Basiouny, said Egypt's policy was to prevent hostile acts against Israel, for tactical, strategic and political reasons.

The Egyptian defense establishment has initiated a thorough investigation of the incident, reports from Cairo said.

Some Egyptian officials were quoted as saying the infiltrators could not have come from Egypt because its side of the frontier is constantly patrolled for reasons of Egyptian security as well as to maintain good relations with Israel.

The bodies of the infiltrators were found with an arsenal of weapons that included five Kalachnikov assault rifles and scores of hand grenades. They also had thousands of dollars in U.S. currency.

Documents found on the bodies indicated their mission was to stage a spectacular "showcase attack" on a heavily populated civilian target.

The IDF so far has not established the gang's affiliation. The infiltrators crossed the Rafah-Eilat road in the western sector of the Sinai border, which is marked by stone mounds but not protected by a fence.

There have been many illicit border crossings attempted from Egypt in the last three years, most of them by drug smugglers.

Six of the incidents between February 1988 and November 1990 were classified as terrorist operations, in which seven Israelis were killed and 31 injured.

#### **JORDANIANS RETURN ISRAELI YOUTHS WHO TOOK EXCURSION ACROSS BORDER** **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- The mysterious ruins of Petra have once again lured Israeli youths to make the dangerous trip to Jordan. A Jewish youth and his Arab buddy, missing for a week, were handed over to Israeli authorities Tuesday by Jordanian military police at the Allenby Bridge after their adventure.

Eran Koran, 19, of Tiberias and Ali Mubarak Taher, 21, from the Arab town of Kfar Kanna in Galilee, were disheveled and tearful over the trouble they had caused.

Both were reported missing Nov. 4, and there was immediate speculation that they had headed for Petra.

Koran, who is due to begin his military service, was described by friends as "adventurous" and by former teachers as "problematic." He worked at a Tiberias pub, where he met Taher and persuaded the young Israeli Arab to accompany him to Petra to act as spokesman if they encountered hostile Bedouins.

Known as the "rose-red city, half as old as time," Petra was hewn by the Nabateans from the distinctive scarlet rocks of the Moabite Mountains overlooking the Jordan Valley. It has been a magnet for adventurers for centuries, more than a few of them Israelis during the last four decades.

But it is illegal to visit Petra without a permit from the Jordanian government. And a visit can be dangerous. Outlaw Bedouin bands have been known to murder tourists for their possessions.

For many years, a popular song about the ancient ruins and the adventures of a trip there was banned from Israel Radio, in an effort to reduce the numbers of those illegally attempting the perilous trip.

Last year, a similar incident took place when two Israeli youths, Orthodox Jews who were also missing for a week, turned up in the hands of Jordanian authorities after having visited the fabled ruins. Their adventure had been so publicized that Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti had interceded in their behalf.

## CANADA REVOKES CITIZENSHIP OF A GESTAPO COLLABORATOR

By Gil Kezwer

TORONTO, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- Jacob Luitjens has become the first person in Canada to have his citizenship revoked for having lied about his wartime past.

Luitjens, who in 1948 was sentenced to prison by a special Dutch tribunal for being a Nazi collaborator, was formally stripped of his Canadian citizenship Nov. 7.

The move clears the way for Immigration Minister Bernard Valcourt to initiate deportation proceedings against the retired University of British Columbia botany instructor.

The federal Cabinet decided to move against the Vancouver man after a recommendation from Gerry Weiner, minister of state for multiculturalism and citizenship.

Luitjens, 72, was officially informed last Friday night.

"The Cabinet, upon reviewing the recommendation of the minister, concurred that citizenship had been obtained by fraudulent means," Len Westerberg, an official in Weiner's office, said.

The Cabinet move followed an Oct. 23 ruling by Justice Frank Collier of the Federal Court of Canada that Luitjens had obtained citizenship in 1971 by making "false representation, or by knowingly concealing material circumstances."

Collier, who had come under criticism for the 29-month delay in his ruling in the denaturalization case, noted that Luitjens had failed to tell immigration officials he was tried in absentia in 1948, convicted of aiding and abetting the enemy in time of war and sentenced to life imprisonment.

### A New Extradition Treaty

Luitjens was a former member of the Dutch Nazi party and the Landwacht, a paramilitary unit which assisted the Gestapo in rounding up Jews and resistance fighters in occupied Holland.

He operated in the Groningen and Drenthe provinces in northeastern Holland. He surrendered to Allied troops in 1945 rather than face the wrath of his own countrymen but escaped from a military prison in 1946. He lived in Germany until 1948, and sailed for South America in May 1948 using the name Gerhard Harder.

Luitjens lived in Paraguay for 13 years before immigrating to Canada in 1961. He claimed that he did not know about his conviction until informed by a reporter in 1983. But Justice Collier concluded it was "highly probable" that Luitjens knew of the Dutch tribunal's sentence in absentia through correspondence with his family.

Gerrit Kulsdom, the Dutch consul general here, said Luitjens could be deported under the new extradition treaty between Canada and the Netherlands, which takes effect Dec. 1.

At the time the treaty was passed by the Dutch Parliament, the Dutch justice minister said the government intended to pursue the extradition of Luitjens.

In 1981, the Dutch government requested that Luitjens be returned to Holland, but Canadian Justice Department officials ruled at that time that the Canada-Netherlands extradition treaty did not cover the crime of collaboration.

Representatives of Jewish groups hailed Luitjens' citizenship revocation, seeing it as paving the way for further such actions and calling for his speedy deportation.

## ROMANIAN ENVOY TELLS AUDIENCE ANTI-SEMITISM IS THE EXCEPTION

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- Recent expressions of anti-Semitism in Romania are confined to a few extremists groups and individuals, the Romanian ambassador to the United States told a Jewish audience here Tuesday.

The majority of "decent normal Romanians" not only ignore anti-Semitic outbursts but condemn them, Ambassador Virgil Constantinescu asserted.

Speaking at luncheon in the American Jewish Committee's Ambassador Forum Luncheon Series, Constantinescu said Romania's 20,000 Jews do not fear for their safety.

Romanians have "always lived with Jews like brothers," he said, appearing to ignore his country's century-old record of anti-Semitism, including a string of major pogroms that began in the 1800s and continued until the 1940s.

Constantinescu said he was personally disturbed that the Romanian Parliament had recently voted to rehabilitate Marshal Ion Antonescu, its World War II fascist dictator.

He said the only explanation he could think of was that since Antonescu was executed on the orders of the Soviet Union, the rehabilitation was seen as a way of telling the Soviets that Romania no longer takes orders from Moscow.

But he said the judgment on Antonescu should be left to historians, and Parliament should focus instead on bringing democracy and economic well-being to Romania following the overthrow of the Communist regime of Nicolae Ceausescu.

## YUGOSLAV JEWS READY TO LEAVE AS WAR TEARS THE COUNTRY APART

By Yehonathan Tommer

JERUSALEM, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- Yugoslavia's 5,500 Jews, deeply attached to their native country, are becoming more amenable to aliyah as the civil war between Serbs and Croats escalates and economic hardships grow.

But despite the heavy fighting in Croatia, "no emergency airlift is planned, like Operation Solomon," which brought more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel over a 36-hour period in May, said Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department.

In an interview, Gordon said 60 Yugoslav Jews immigrated to Israel last month, compared to 70 since the civil war began earlier this year and 50 during all of the previous three years.

He predicted that "the trickle will strengthen in coming weeks," with encouragement from the Jewish Agency.

"Two aliyah emissaries are currently traveling throughout Yugoslavia, assisting a growing stream of new olim to complete the necessary bureaucratic arrangements," Gordon said.

Two weeks ago, 32 families requested aliyah permits, Gordon told a group of Eastern European immigrants in Tel Aviv last week. He said the Yugoslav olim will travel to Israel via Budapest, where agency officials completed transit arrangements for them in September.

Until recently, Yugoslav Jews were comparatively well off economically and relatively unaffected by the civil war. But with almost 18 percent of the population unemployed, younger Jews are increasingly considering the advantages of aliyah, according to the Jewish Agency.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**

**MAGIC JOHNSON DISCLOSURE SPURS TALK AT DAY SCHOOLS ABOUT AIDS**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- When Earvin (Magic) Johnson announced last week that he is infected with the virus that causes AIDS, the shock felt by his fans reverberated around the world.

Kids were especially hard-hit by the news.

Johnson, star of the Los Angeles Lakers and ubiquitous promoter of products from Pepsi-Cola to Converse sneakers, is beloved by children of every race and religion for his stunning athletic prowess and good-natured warmth.

His announcement made the specter of acquired immune deficiency syndrome more real for children than any other AIDS-related event.

In Jewish day schools across the country, the basketball player's announcement has spurred discussion about the disease and its prevention.

"It's been a major shock to the kids" at the Epstein School in Atlanta, according to Laura Bidlack, science coordinator at the Conservative day school.

The announcement "brought AIDS home to these kids in a more personal way than anything else" has, she said. The students are "concerned that someone we love so much could have done something so stupid."

They wanted to know if they "should not consider him a hero anymore," she said, because it is believed that Johnson was infected with HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus, through unprotected heterosexual intercourse.

"Some said he's going to be more of a hero now, and it is easier to frame that way, because he's come out so early, which most people don't," Bidlack said.

The basketball superstar has quit professional sports and indicated that he will devote himself to educating young people in the black community about AIDS and safe sexual practices.

And on Tuesday, the White House announced that President Bush has invited Johnson to become a member of the National Commission on AIDS.

**'You Don't Want To Scare Them'**

At the Epstein School, students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades attend a human sexuality course, part of which is devoted to AIDS education, and they know about risky behavior, said Bidlack.

But after Johnson's announcement, many of the students asked questions and voiced new concerns about the disease. And despite their course work, many were "full of misconceptions," Bidlack said. Their questions were answered on an informal basis.

In a Reform day school in Houston that educates kids from kindergarten through fifth grade, there is discussion of human sexuality at every level, and there are formal sex education classes for students in the fourth and fifth grades.

But "any education about AIDS is general," according to Nancy Pryzant Picus, director of Judaic studies at the Irvin M. Shlenker School of Congregation Beth Israel. "We don't really have an orchestrated lesson plan on teaching AIDS."

"When you have children this young, you don't want to scare them, but we don't want them to be ignorant" either, she said.

The kids "know about AIDS, especially after

Magic Johnson. But part of me wonders what I'm teaching kids if I hold him up as a hero."

Sex education is part of the formal curriculum at all of the 15 Reform day schools in North America, according to Irwin Shlachter, president of Association of Reform Jewish Day Schools. But he could not say whether all of the schools include education about AIDS in the curriculum.

Kids as young as second- and third-graders express concerns about AIDS, Shlachter said.

**Subject 'Not Foreign' Anymore**

"We tend to think children are not sophisticated enough to understand what this is about, but they do see it around and know that people die from it. The subject is not foreign to them anymore," he said.

At the Orthodox RAMAZ School in New York, Johnson's announcement "affected everybody," according to Rabbi Joshua Bakst, dean of the upper school for boys and girls from the seventh through 12th grades.

At RAMAZ, 10th-graders have a one-semester course on sexual ethics taught by Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, the principal, who at a Veterans Day assembly this week spoke about the message of Magic Johnson for religious Jews.

AIDS is not a discrete part of the sexual ethics course, the health education that is taught in all grades or the "taharat mishpacha," the family purity classes that 12th-grade girls attend, according to Bakst.

But questions are asked and answered in those classes and others. "People have to learn something not only about safe sex, but go beyond that to ethics in Jewish law," Bakst said.

The approach to AIDS education in Orthodox day schools and yeshivot varies widely.

RAMAZ, as a relatively progressive Orthodox school, is atypical in its acceptance of AIDS as a legitimate topic of discussion.

Even in so-called Modern Orthodox schools that might "address sexuality within a Jewish law course, AIDS is not a primary focus," according to Jeff Lichtman, until recently director of the Torah High School Network.

"The schools on the right tend not to deal with sex education at all," said Lichtman, who is now director of Yachad, a program for students with learning disabilities.

"AIDS and homosexuality are not dealt with very much, because the bottom line is that homosexuality is very much frowned upon," he said.

**WHEN TO LAY TEFILLIN IN OUTER SPACE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A theoretical question debated in yeshivot for years was how would an observant Jew traveling in space fulfill religious obligations governed by the earthly progressions of dawn and dusk.

A practical answer was recently sought from Israel's Sephardic chief rabbi, Mordechai Eliahu, by an American astronaut who is Orthodox.

Scheduled for an upcoming NASA space shuttle flight, the unidentified astronaut wanted to know when he should put on tefillin (phylacteries), a ritual that is part of morning prayers.

The astronaut in orbit will experience several dawns and dusks during a 24-hour period. The chief rabbi, after due deliberation, instructed him to put on his tefillin every 24 hours by his watch, corresponding to the start of the terrestrial day.