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**U.S. INSPECTION TEAM BEGINS WORK  
AS ISRAEL BRISTLES OVER CHARGES**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) -- The Israeli government appears divided over how to react to the flurry of charges in Washington that Israel transferred American weapons or technology to third countries without approval.

A 15-member team of U.S. Army inspectors arrived Saturday night to investigate the alleged unauthorized sale of Patriot anti-missile technology to China.

While Defense Minister Moshe Arens and other officials stress that Israel is cooperating fully, there is beneath the surface a feeling of cold fury in some government circles that an orchestrated campaign of Israel-bashing is under way by elements in the U.S. administration.

Government officials apparently were not mollified by assurances U.S. Army Secretary Michael Stone gave in Tel Aviv to Arens and to the Israel Defense Force chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, that the recent upsets have not eroded the U.S. commitment to Israel's security.

Stone thanked Arens on behalf of his government for Israel's cooperation with the investigating team. Arens replied tartly that there was no reason not to cooperate fully because "Israel has nothing to hide."

Arens, who just returned from Washington, reportedly told the Cabinet on Sunday that his discussions there with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and others did not improve the situation.

He said the accusations against Israel have caused lasting damage to its reputation in the United States.

**Time For 'Straight Talk' With U.S.**

Arens bristled over new allegations, attributed to unnamed U.S. sources, that Israel not only sold the Chinese Patriot technology but conducted experts from Beijing on an inspection tour of a Patriot site in Israel.

Like the earlier charges, they are entirely groundless, the defense minister said.

Foreign Minister David Levy did not minimize the grave state of relations with Washington. Nevertheless, he urged restraint in the way the government portrays the situation.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has adopted the same tone. But other ministers are unabashedly accusing the United States of bad faith.

One of the most outspoken is David Magen, the minister of economics and planning, who denounced what he called the administration's "cruel and false accusations" as hostile acts aimed at undermining Israel.

Magen called for "straight talk" to Washington. "Purim's over -- it is time to take off the mask," he said.

He told reporters afterward that he had definite ideas to propose as to how the government should face off the Americans but did not want to disclose them at this time.

Some political commentators speculated that Likud plans to use its confrontation with Washington as an election campaign asset, boasting that unlike the Labor Party, it proudly stands up to American pressure.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:  
BUSH'S STAND ON LOAN GUARANTEES  
COULD HARM HIM AT POLLS THIS FALL**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 23 (JTA) -- President Bush's standoff with Israel over its request for U.S. loan guarantees has eroded what little political support he already had among American Jews.

Republican and Democratic strategists alike figure Bush will get only 15 to 20 percent of the Jewish vote in the November elections, down from the 30 to 35 percent he received four years ago.

While Jews tend to vote overwhelmingly Democratic, Bush was able to win a sizable minority of Jewish votes in 1988 because of his association with Ronald Reagan, regarded by many as the most pro-Israel president in decades.

By contrast, Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker, are viewed as being evenhanded on Middle East issues or even displaying a pro-Arab tilt.

Any marked drop in the Jewish vote for Bush could reverse his fortunes in states where he won only slim victories in 1988. That is because under the American election system, candidates get all of the electoral votes of the states in which they win even a razor-thin majority of the popular vote.

In this regard, Bush is particularly vulnerable in Pennsylvania and Illinois, with 23 and 22 electoral votes respectively out of a total of 538. In those states, he narrowly beat Michael Dukakis by winning just 50.7 percent of the popular vote.

Next among the states where the Jewish vote could reverse Bush's 1988 victories are California and Maryland, where Bush received 51.1 percent of the popular vote in each. California has 54 electoral votes and Maryland has 10.

**Anger Over September Remarks**

States with many Jews where a change from 1988 is less likely are Florida, where Bush won 60.9 percent of the popular vote; New Jersey, where he won 56.2 percent; and Ohio, where he won 55 percent. The state with the largest Jewish population is New York, which Bush lost in 1988 and is likely to lose again.

As the 1992 election campaign shapes up into a contest between Bush and Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, one of the Democrats' chief lightning rods will be Bush's statement in September about being "one lonely guy" standing against what he called "some powerful political forces," a reference to pro-Israel activists lobbying for loan guarantees.

Another will be Baker's alleged use of a profanity in speaking about American Jews during the loan guarantees fight -- a charge the secretary of state angrily denied.

Mark Siegel, a Jewish Democratic political consultant, said of the September remarks that Bush "threw a lighted match on the volatile issue of anti-Semitism" and "perverted the sanctimony of the bully pulpit of his office in a fist-pounding, red-faced denunciation of the alleged influence and political powers of Jews in America."

Matthew Brooks, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition, a group that seeks Jewish support for the Republican Party, conceded

that Bush's statement "still reverberates within the community."

"But it is important to also understand that the president understands that," Brooks added. "He's done a 'mea culpa' on that, and I think he sincerely believes that."

"I am sick and tired of our community focusing our debate on whether or not this administration has written off the Jewish vote," Brooks said.

### Obsession With Settlements Policy

The Bush administration's view that expansion of Israeli settlements in the administered territories is an "obstacle to peace in the region" is the "deciding factor in the way they are making their policy decisions right now," Brooks said.

But critics of the administration have charged that it has blown out of proportion Israeli settlement expansion as an obstacle to peace without placing a similar emphasis on the effects of the Arab states' economic boycott against Israel or their refusal to bestow diplomatic recognition.

There is also a sense that Bush personally dislikes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and that the entire relationship between the two countries is adversely affected.

Jacob Stein, a leading Jewish Republican, dismissed the claim that the Bush administration is working deliberately to cast Israel in a negative light.

"I can't see any gain for the administration" in doing that, he said.

"I've known the president long enough to know he's generally interested in maintaining a strong and constructive American-Israeli relationship," said Stein, a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

He pointed out that Israel's hopes of sitting at the peace table with the Arabs "have been realized by the efforts of this president." And he cited the administration's effort to get the U.N. General Assembly to repeal its 1975 resolution defining Zionism as racism.

While American Jewish leaders acknowledge these achievements with appreciation, few would dispute that this administration has taken a tougher stance against Israel than any other in recent memory.

### Siding With 'Devil You Do Know'

Brooks of the Republican Jewish group said he hopes Jews will cast their votes on the basis of issues other than just the loan guarantees standoff.

He said American Jews should be concerned about any increased ties between Clinton and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, as Clinton seeks to turn out the black vote. Jackson's remarks about Jews and Israel in the past have been a major concern of the community.

Steve Gutow, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council, said Bush's stands on social issues and his appointment of conservative Supreme Court justices are compelling reasons to vote for the eventual Democratic nominee, if the Israel issue is set aside.

Gutow also linked Bush to being from the same party as fellow candidates Patrick Buchanan and David Duke, both considered to have made anti-Semitic statements.

Brooks said that despite the negative reac-

tion of many Jews to Bush on Israel, until more is known about Clinton, "I am not so certain that the alternative is going to be any better."

One Republican strategist said it might be wise for American Jews to "go with the devil you do know rather than the devil you don't know."

But Gutow called Clinton a "regular mensch" and speculated that he will be a "damn good friend of Israel."

Despite the deep dismay among American Jews about the Bush administration's stance on Israel, there is no clear defection from Bush yet among the most active Republican Jews, who in recent elections have provided substantial support to the Reagan and Bush presidential bids.

One party strategist said that Republican Jews are continuing their 1988 level of contributions to the Bush campaign, which account for a quarter of all funds raised, although total contributions have decreased because of the recession.

Some leading Republican Jewish activists "may not get involved in the fall campaign, but I wouldn't trumpet that as them leaving the party," said one strategist.

### LEFT-WING PARTIES CHOOSE SLATE FOR JUNE 23 ELECTIONS IN ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) -- Mapam, one of the three dovish parties that make up the new Meretz peace bloc, selected an Israeli Arab on Sunday as one of its candidates for the June 23 Knesset elections.

The party's 600-member Central Committee chose the incumbent leader of its three-member Knesset faction, Yair Tsaban, for the No. 1 spot. Haim Oron was unanimously re-elected for second place.

Third place went to Walid Sa'adeh, a veteran left-wing Arab leader from Taiba, after a lengthy voting process that eliminated seven other candidates for the slot.

The first three names on Mapam's list will rank second, sixth and ninth respectively on the joint Meretz list.

The new party, whose name is an acronym that forms the word "Energy," consists of the Citizens Rights Movement, Mapam and the Center-Shinui Movement. They have a combined total of 10 seats in the outgoing 12th Knesset and hope to increase their representation significantly in the 13th.

Recent opinion polls have encouraged leaders of the three parties, which seem to have lost only negligible support among their traditional constituencies by deciding to pool forces.

At the same time, they seem to be attracting support from new voters. Straw polls recently conducted in several non-Orthodox Jerusalem high schools put Meretz ahead of both Likud and Labor.

Shinui chose its candidates last week. The CRM will choose early next month. CRM leader Shulamit Aloni will head the Meretz list, since her party, with five Knesset seats, is the largest of the three.

Shinui, the smallest faction of the new party, re-elected its incumbent Knesset members, Amnon Rubinstein and Avraham Poraz. They will be in the third and seventh places respectively on the Meretz list.

The third Shinui slot went to Hebrew University Orientalist Yehoshua Porat, who will run 13th on the joint list.

## JEWES ALARMED BY LE PEN'S GAINS, BUT RELIEVED THEY AREN'T LARGER

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, March 23 (JTA) -- French Jews may be relieved that Jean-Marie Le Pen's far-right National Front, which was expected to win big in Sunday's regional elections, wound up with only 14 percent of the vote nationwide.

But Jews in the south of France, where Le Pen did best, are clearly frightened, according to Jean Kahn, president of CRIF, the Representative Council of French Jewish Organizations.

Kahn said some Jewish families in Nice, where the National Front polled 30 percent of the vote, told him they were considering moving out of the city and even out of the country.

He said he was satisfied at least that CRIF helped prevent Le Pen from winning control in the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur region, which includes Nice and Marseilles.

He said his organization worked hard to get out the vote. "We physically brought voters to the polling stations, mainly in the Nice area, where Le Pen was trying for his best score," Kahn said.

The xenophobic National Front is a single-issue party. It campaigns against immigrants under the slogan "France for the French" and advocates shipping immigrants back to their countries of origin.

Its chief targets at the moment are Arab emigres from the former French territories in North Africa and blacks from sub-Saharan Africa, whom it accuses of taking jobs away from French citizens and living off crime and welfare.

Le Pen's harangues have gone over best in the south of France, which is closest to North Africa and has had the largest influx of immigrants. The mainstream parties have shied away from the issue.

### Largest Right-Wing Party In Europe

Although Le Pen boasted before the elections that he would get 20 percent of the overall vote in the 22 regions of France, his 14 percent showing reflected massive voter discontent with the major parties on the left and right.

If his score was not quite up to his expectations, it gave France the dubious distinction of having the strongest right-wing extremist party in Europe.

The National Front gained 4.5 percentage points over its showing in the 1986 regional elections, while the ruling Socialist Party, with a meager 18 percent of the national vote, was down 11 percentage points from 1986.

The two mainstream right-wing parties scored 33 percent between them nationally but were down 8 percentage points from 1986.

The Communist Party's 8 percent represented a drop of 2 percentage points.

The only gainers besides Le Pen were two quarreling environmental parties, the left-leaning Greens, which scored 6.9 percent, and the new centrist Ecological Generation, headed by Cabinet Minister Brice Lalonde, which got 7.3 percent.

The center-right opposition, which led in 19 regions, faces a dilemma this Friday, when it must elect its own council chairpersons or forego power. It could seek an alliance with Le Pen or ask for help from the ecologists.

Most center-right leaders have vowed to avoid a coalition with the National Front. Whether they keep their promises remains to be seen.

## RABBI PLANS TO APPEAL DISMISSAL OF CASE AGAINST POLISH CARDINAL

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA) -- Rabbi Avi Weiss plans to appeal the dismissal of his slander case against the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland, Cardinal Jozef Glemp.

The dismissal, handed down March 19 by U.S. District Judge Robert Patterson Jr., was based on a technicality rather than the substance of the claim against Glemp. The judge ruled, after a one-day hearing, that the subpoena was improperly served to the Catholic primate.

Weiss' attorney, Harvard University Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz, has vowed not only to appeal the decision but to again serve Glemp with a subpoena if the cardinal visits the United States without apologizing for what he said about Weiss in a 1989 sermon.

In that homily, Glemp charged that the Bronx rabbi had tried to kill the nuns at the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz, when he and six followers demonstrated there in July 1989.

Dershowitz said that next time, he would have Glemp served "more aggressively."

"Because we had respect for his position and we didn't shove it (the subpoena) under his arm like a common thief, there was improper service," said Dershowitz. "Next time we're going to shove it under his arm or any other part of his anatomy."

Weiss himself could not be reached for comment. And Glemp's legal representatives in the case, attorneys from the Washington-based firm Williams & Connolly, had no comment on the decision.

A slander suit brought by Weiss against Glemp in Poland in November 1989 was dismissed and on appeal, that dismissal was affirmed.

### 'An Incredible Amount Of Bias'

In an affidavit for the American trial, Dershowitz included details of a meeting he held with judges in the Polish city of Czestochowa about the lawsuit there. In that meeting, he said, the Polish judges indicated they were under enormous pressure to dismiss the case.

The affidavit's account of the conversation conflicts with what Dershowitz said about the same meeting in his autobiographical book "Chutzpah."

In his ruling, the U.S. federal court judge called the discrepancies in Dershowitz's accounts "troubling, to say the least."

Dershowitz has filed a motion to have that part of the decision withdrawn and will seek to have the judge disciplined.

"He took a cheap shot at me. The affidavit is completely accurate, but a book is edited, and he never asked about it during the hearing," Dershowitz said. "He went off after me, and he's just not going to get away with it."

Dershowitz also charged there was "an incredible amount of bias displayed during the hearing."

The judge "basically believed everybody who testified for Glemp and disbelieved everyone who testified for Avi," he charged.

In his decision, Judge Patterson said that "Cardinal Glemp is now an extremely important and powerful figure in Poland, that anti-Semitism exists in Poland and that it might well be difficult for an American rabbi to initiate civil proceedings against Cardinal Glemp in that country."

# ISRAEL-EGYPT SPORTS CONTEST MARRED BY ANTI-ISRAEL SLURS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 23 (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt met in their first team sports event Sunday, when they fought to a 17-17 draw in the preliminary rounds of the World Handball Championship in Salzburg, Austria.

But the contest was marred by deliberate slurs on Israel by the Egyptian players, who apparently regarded the game as an extension of the wars Egypt has fought against the Jewish state.

Their hostility was manifest by statements allegedly made by Egyptian team members during pregame interviews with a Cairo weekly publication, which were reprinted Monday in the Israeli daily Hadashot.

The Israeli news media made much of two incidents, which amounted to insults by the Egyptians.

When a band played the national anthems of both countries before the start of the game, some Egyptian team members refused to stand for "Hatikvah." Those who got to their feet deliberately stood with their backs to the Israeli flag.

At the end of the match, when an Israeli fan ran onto the court waving an Israeli flag, an Egyptian player seized it and threw it to the ground.

Israeli and Egyptian sports figures have met on an individual basis since their countries signed a peace treaty in 1979. Gilad Bloom, the Israeli Davis Cup contender, appeared at a tennis match in Cairo last October.

Egyptian players have participated in the Israeli Open Squash Championships in Herzliya. And wounded Israeli and Egyptian war veterans met in a wheelchair basketball match at the Stoke Mandeville Games for the Disabled in England.

But the handball tournament in Salzburg was the first team competition between Israel and an Arab country.

## 'Revenge For All Arab Victims'

According to the Cairo weekly quoted by Hadashot, the Egyptian team's management had to call on psychologists to prepare the players to concentrate on the game instead of politics.

One Egyptian player, Faisal Awad, was quoted as saying, "The game is revenge for all the Arab victims who fell in wars against Israel. My mother told me we must beat the Jews."

Similar sentiments were expressed by 20-year-old Ahmed al-Ud. "For me, the game is like a war, a national duty to beat Israel. Losing to the Israelis would be a defeat, like the defeat in 1967," he said.

"This is not just a handball game, but a war," said Omar Saragaldin, 20. And Mohammed Ashur, 25, was angry at the team management for persuading them to play against the Israeli team. He said he was not at peace with himself because the Israelis are murderers, not sportsmen.

Despite the draw, Israel is ahead of Egypt in the competition because of its 23-22 win over Denmark on Saturday.

Israel now advances to the playoffs among the 12 top-ranking teams. Israel ranks third after Denmark and Poland in its four-team group. Egypt is last.

The top three groups will advance to the next stage in Innsbruck, Austria. Israel's next game will be in Norway later this week.

# FOUR ISRAELI ARABS INDICTED FOR MURDERING IDF RECRUITS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) -- Four Israeli Arabs were indicted Monday in Nazareth District Court for the murder last month of three Israel Defense Force recruits.

The recruits, two of whom were recent immigrants from the Soviet Union, were hacked to death in their sleep at a basic training camp during the night of Feb. 15-16.

The accused are the brothers Ibrahim and Mohammed Agbariya and a relative, Ihya Agbariya, all from Musheirifa village in the Wadi Ara region of Israel. The fourth is Mohammed Jabarin from the nearby town of Umm el-Fahm.

According to the charge sheet, the four became devout Moslems who believed it was their duty to fight the "infidels," particularly Jews and Jewish soldiers.

They planned to join the Islamic Jihad, a fundamentalist terrorist group that has training bases in southern Lebanon, but were unable to get across the Israeli border.

The indictment says that before they attacked the recruit training center, a plan to kill a hitchhiking IDF soldier was thwarted, as was the planned murder of an Israeli security guard at Katzir, a Jewish village near Umm el-Fahm.

Their attack on the lightly defended training camp was particularly brutal. The three victims were slashed with knives, axes and a pitchfork.

The assailants got away with stolen IDF weapons with which they had planned to attack a nearby police station, the indictment said.

# SEARCH IS MADE FOR NEW OLEH MISSING FROM WEST BANK HOME

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 23 (JTA) -- Hundreds of policemen, troops and volunteers searched Monday for a recent immigrant, missing for five days from his home in Mitze Jericho, a residential village in the West Bank east of Jerusalem.

Police fear that Alexander Bronotchnik, 51, who arrived in Israel only a few months ago from the former Soviet Union, was the victim of Palestinian kidnappers.

But the discovery Monday of the new Ford Escort he was driving when last seen on March 18 seemed to point to a possible criminal reason for his disappearance.

The car was found abandoned in Har Nof, a suburb of Jerusalem, after police were alerted by a local resident. There were bloodstains in the luggage compartment.

The missing man was described as short, muscular, gray-haired with blue-green eyes and a broken nose. His height was given at 5 feet, 3 inches.

Bronotchnik spoke only Russian and Yiddish and a smattering of Hebrew. He was not familiar with the roads outside his village. The search was confined to a seven-mile radius of Mitze Jericho.

According to his family, he drove off early last Wednesday morning saying he was going to meet a carpenter in Kfar Adumim, a West Bank town about 5 miles away. He told his wife he would be back about 9 a.m.

When he failed to return and it was discovered that he never arrived at Kfar Adumim, the police were informed and Bronotchnik was declared officially missing the next day.