

**LOS ANGELES JEWS, SPARED BY RIOTING,  
PITCH IN TO HELP REBUILD RAVAGED CITY**  
By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, May 4 (JTA) -- The Jewish community here is pitching in to rebuild a city ravaged last week by 60 hours of arson, looting and murder.

On Sunday morning, 70 members of Temple Israel of Hollywood drove past torched buildings, smashed storefronts and armed National Guard soldiers to the Messiah Baptist Church, to deliver truckloads of clothing and food to the black congregation and to join it in an emotional solidarity service.

At the same time, another 70 Temple Israel volunteers were wielding shovels and brooms to clean up the rubble along Hollywood Boulevard.

Similar efforts were under way by half a dozen mainly Reform synagogues in a hastily organized and almost instinctive response to the suffering caused by last week's unrest, which was triggered by the April 29 acquittal of four white police officers in the beating of black motorist Rodney King.

Like their fellow citizens, the 600,000 Jews of metropolitan Los Angeles are still struggling to make sense of a string of events that turned a city they thought of as a model of multi-ethnic harmony to one likened by some to Beirut.

Close to 100 leaders of Jewish organizations and institutions gathered Monday morning in an emergency meeting to exchange information and chart the Jewish community's response.

They did what the community does best, which was to put together an immediate action project to get large quantities of food to the people suffering in the riot area and to give the aid a visible Jewish presence and imprint.

**A Frightful Toll On City**

Speakers also urged an outreach program to the 300,000-strong Korean community, which was hit hard during the riots.

The Jewish leaders recognize that the economic and psychological root causes of the civil strife will have to be addressed after the immediate crisis is over.

That crisis has already taken a frightful toll: 51 dead, 3,328 injured, 6,405 reported fires, more than 10,000 arrests, 8,400 businesses burned out, damaged or looted, and damage estimated at \$750 million.

Amid the grim statistics, the Jewish community could heave a silent sigh of relief that its own losses, in lives and property, were relatively minor.

Since the 1965 Watts riots, when Jewish-run markets, liquor stores and small shops were among the major targets of the mob's fury, Jewish business people had abandoned stores in the black inner city and had been replaced by Korean immigrants, who bore the brunt of last week's attacks.

Although the gangs of arsonists, looters and killers leapfrogged ethnic boundaries to strike across the sprawling city, the main Jewish enclaves on the West Side, Beverly Hills and the southern part of the San Fernando Valley were largely spared.

In the Fairfax district, once almost entirely Jewish but now becoming ethnically mixed, several incidents of looting and arson were reported.

But the landmark Canter's Deli stayed open at night despite the curfew, providing hot pastрами sandwiches for Jewish and black customers.

Yet there were losses in life and property.

Howard Epstein, a 45-year old businessman and father of two small children, flew in from his home in northern California to see what was happening to his machine shop in South Los Angeles.

While on the way to his shop in a rented car, he was shot and killed by three men, who afterward ransacked his vehicle and took his personal belongings.

**Arson Misses Newspaper Office**

No figures are available on the destruction of the still-substantial absentee holdings by Jews in property and buildings in South Los Angeles.

Among them, an \$11 million printing plant was burned to the ground, as was a shopping center, some smaller businesses and some outlets of national chains.

Stores next to the Jewish Community Building were vandalized, and a passing woman was shot from a car in front of the building on April 30. All Jewish schools and agencies were closed last Friday.

Yet, there was general agreement that Jewish targets were not singled out and that anti-Semitism was not a noticeable factor during the rampage. At black churches and protest rallies at college campuses, Jewish spokespersons were warmly received and applauded.

An exception was a claim by a black probation officer on the ABC News program "Nightline" that he had seen boys with yarmulkes looting a liquor store. The remark has been greeted with puzzlement and was not reported by any other source.

There also were stories of luck and pluck. A Jewish businessman who runs a recreational activities service reported that while most of the adjacent stores at a shopping mall were burned down, his facilities were untouched.

The one-story building housing the weekly Heritage-Southwest Jewish Press, topped by a 35-foot-high electric sign of the Tablets of the Law in Hebrew lettering, was bracketed by fires to the north and south, but remained itself untouched.

Publisher Herb Brin credited the owner of an adjoining gas station, a Christian Arab from Lebanon, with saving the structure by organizing a protective cordon of Hispanic men and women.

**A Stake In The Urban Agenda**

Gil Zahavi, the Israeli owner of a Hollywood souvenir shop, armed his employees with four shotguns and eight handguns to keep looters at bay.

Not content with a defensive posture, Zahavi's forces made citizens' arrests of three vandals, including two who had burned a nearby video equipment store.

"If we're not going to protect ourselves and protect Hollywood, no one else is going to," Zahavi said.

Besides participating in relief efforts, most

of the mainstream Jewish organizations have joined in demanding action by the U.S. Department of Justice in the King case and urging passage of a far-reaching reform plan for the Los Angeles Police Department in the June 2 election.

Steven Windmueller, executive director of the federation's Community Relations Committee, said the Jewish community would play a major role in a citywide effort to rebuild the areas hardest hit by the riots.

"This isn't a race or ethnic issue, but a class issue between the haves and have-nots," said Windmueller. "I believe the Jewish community will raise its stake in the urban agenda. We can't live in a society that's torn apart."

#### **AS ALIYAH CONTINUES TO PLUMMET, JEWISH AGENCY FOCUSES ON YOUTH**

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) -- In an effort to bolster sagging aliyah from the former Soviet republics, the Jewish Agency has announced a new, youth-oriented strategy.

"We will now stress innovative programs for promoting aliyah among young adults and teenagers," Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the agency's Executive, said after his recent trip to the region.

During the first four months of 1992, aliyah from the former Soviet republics has dropped an alarming 60 percent from the same period last year.

From Jan. 1 to April 30, a total of 20,079 Jews immigrated here from the republics, compared to 50,146 during the same period last year, according to figures compiled by the Soviet Jewry Research Bureau of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry in New York.

In April, a total of 5,629 people immigrated to Israel, including 4,696 from the Soviet successor states. This represents a 10 percent decrease in overall aliyah from March, when 6,274 olim came, among them 4,913 Soviets.

Total aliyah in April was only a third of the April 1991 total, while the number of olim from the former Soviet republics was just over a quarter of the 1991 figure.

In New York, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society reported that 3,011 Jews from the former Soviet republics immigrated to the United States in April, bringing the total for the first seven months of the 1992 fiscal year to 26,184.

Experts agree that difficult economic conditions in Israel coupled with new property ownership laws in the former Soviet republics have led to the slowdown in aliyah.

Since the end of last year, when immigration statistics began their downward slide, aliyah officials have been scurrying for a solution.

Realizing that Israel's high rate of unemployment has dissuaded many adults from making aliyah, the Jewish Agency has decided to focus its energies on encouraging immigration among the younger generation.

This summer, for example, the agency will sponsor summer camps throughout the republics. About 6,000 youths are expected to attend the camps, whose emphasis will be Jewish culture, Hebrew-language courses and aliyah.

"In what seems to be a growing trend, many parents are preparing their children for aliyah, although they, themselves, have no immediate plans to immigrate," said agency spokesman Yehuda Weinraub.

"Between 500 and 600 teen-agers from the

republics will come on aliyah this summer without their parents. Most will go to Youth Aliyah boarding schools or university programs," he said.

"These parents haven't given up on aliyah," said Dinitz, "but there will not be a major breakthrough until economic conditions in Israel improve. In the meantime, they are sending their children so that they, at least, will have a brighter future."

#### **UKRAINIAN JEW ACCUSED OF MURDER LEAVES HAVEN AT CANADIAN EMBASSY**

By Gil Kezzer

TORONTO, May 4 (JTA) -- For the last 16 months, Dmitri Berman has been holed up inside the Canadian Embassy in Moscow, in semi-asylum from a murder rap that was first leveled by Soviet and then independent Ukrainian sources.

On April 30, he left the strip of Canadian territory on Starokonyushenny Lane to face a possible retrial for murder.

Michael Bell, Canada's ambassador to Russia, said the day after that he did not know where the Ukrainian Jewish refugee had gone.

Canada will continue to monitor the case, he said, which began with the Aug. 1, 1988 knifing of a Moldavian Soviet navy ensign in the Bug River port of Nikolayev, Berman's hometown.

Berman, a slim 28-year-old factory worker, was arrested for the sailor's murder. Despite scanty evidence, he was tried and convicted in March 1989, after eight months in detention.

The ambassador said Berman decided to leave the embassy after complaining about poor living conditions in the embassy compound.

"He used some rather intemperate language. He threatened to punch one of my guards. He was jumpy and clearly under stress," Bell told Canadian reporters.

The Ukrainian procurator general, whose office had a year prior effectively dropped its case against the young Jew, has called for the case to be reopened, even after Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told an American Jewish audience the Berman case was "a Soviet matter."

Since then, the Ukrainian procurator has refused to see the Canadian lawyer whom Berman retained as counsel.

Berman testified, in several proceedings, that he had been beaten and force-fed drugs in prison. He had been in quasi-asylum in the Canadian Embassy in Moscow since December 1990.

In January 1991, Berman learned that he would not be permitted to leave because the investigation was being reopened on the basis of "new evidence."

His brother went on to Israel; his father remained behind for the duration of the ordeal. Berman had been at the point of leaving for Israel when new charges were raised against him by unidentified Soviet authorities. Since the case began, the countries and players have changed.

Berman claims the charges against him stem from religious persecution.

With the breakup of the former Soviet Union, Berman has become a symbol for Ukrainian authorities. The prosecutor's office insists that Berman must return for a court appearance to satisfy due process requirements.

The question now is whether Berman will remain on the lam or seek to close the book on his legal nightmare.

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

## BAKER TELLS AJCONGRESS LEADERS PEACE TALKS ARE PROGRESSING WELL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 4 (JTA) -- Secretary of State James Baker believes the Middle East peace process is "moving along extremely well."

Baker made this assessment during a meeting Monday with 16 members of the American Jewish Congress, according to Robert Lifton, the organization's president.

Lifton said the group received the same assessment from Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval, with whom it had met earlier.

But Henry Siegman, the group's executive director, observed that while there has been progress in the five rounds of direct talks, no "major breakthrough" has been achieved.

Lifton said his group thanked Baker for bringing about the peace talks and for his efforts to win freedom for Syrian Jews, which bore fruit last week when Damascus announced that it was lifting longstanding travel restrictions against the Jewish community.

But the AJCongress leaders expressed the disappointment of the American Jewish community that the Bush administration has failed to give Israel guarantees for \$10 billion in loans it wants to borrow to aid immigrant absorption.

Lifton said the Jewish participants found it "heartening" that Baker said the issue "was not foreclosed" and that the administration still wants to bridge its differences with Israel and with Congress over the guarantees.

The administration has refused to approve the guarantees unless Israel halts the building of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Baker also understands Israel's urgent need for the guarantees and spoke of the dangers facing Jews in the former Soviet Union, Siegman said.

The AJCongress delegation did not seek to negotiate the issue, Lifton stressed.

Baker also said that the "fundamental relations between Israel and the United States are as strong as ever," Lifton reported.

The group left the State Department assured that Baker and his top aides on Middle East affairs have the interest of Israel at heart, Lifton said.

## ISRAEL FORGES TIES WITH LIECHTENSTEIN

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, May 4 (JTA) -- Israel has established full diplomatic relations with Liechtenstein, the tiny principality high in the Alps between Switzerland and Austria.

Rafael Gvir, Israel's ambassador to Switzerland, who was just accredited non-resident ambassador to Liechtenstein, presented his credentials to that country's de-facto ruler, Prince Hans Adam II, at its capital, Vaduz, last week.

Liechtenstein, with an area of 61 square miles and a population of just under 28,000, historically has had no formal diplomatic relations with any country, though it has maintained consulates in Switzerland.

Last month, Liechtenstein joined the European Free Trade Association, an economic confederation of nine smaller countries, Switzerland among them, which is similar to the European Community. That required establishing full diplomatic ties with several European states.

The prince decided to include Israel as well.

## ANOTHER ORTHODOX PARTY CREATED TO APPEAL TO THE BROADER PUBLIC

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) -- A lively battle for the haredi vote seems to be shaping up with Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz's announcement Monday that he is creating yet another Orthodox party.

It will be called Moriah and will appeal not just to haredim, the strictly Orthodox, but to a broader segment of the public, said Peretz.

The minister, who is rabbi of Ra'anana, has been an independent member of the Knesset since he broke with the Sephardic haredi Shas party two years ago.

Before launching his new party, Peretz consulted with Rabbi Eliezer Schach, the 96-year-old sage of Bnei Brak who is spiritual leader of Degel HaTorah, an Ashkenazic haredi party.

Schach did not publicly endorse Peretz's move. But he did not forbid it, which led to suspicions in haredi circles that he is playing a double game.

Over the weekend, Schach had reached a verbal agreement with the hasidic Agudat Yisrael party to field a joint list with Degel HaTorah in the June 23 Knesset elections.

He had hoped to enlist Peretz in the new alignment, but the Agudah sages balked. They said if Peretz joined their list, it could only be to replace a Degel man.

It appears now that Peretz's Moriah party will siphon off support from the joint Agudah-Degel list and from Shas.

The absorption minister said he had been approached by delegations and individuals from a broad spectrum of the community who begged him not to quit politics.

## LIKUD KICKS OFF ITS CAMPAIGN, BUT LOOKS TO PAST FOR IDEAS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) -- Likud kicked off its election campaign with a mighty rally in the Binyanei Ha'uma convention hall here Sunday.

But Israel's ruling party seemed to be looking to its past for inspiration. The centerpiece was a videotaped speech by the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who led the party to power in 1977 after 30 years in the political wilderness.

Begin died March 9, after eight years away from politics.

Although many people believe his greatest achievements were the Camp David accords and the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, for which he shared a Nobel Prize, Begin's successor, Yitzhak Shamir, roused the Likud faithful Sunday with a vow that the idea of territorial compromise would fade like a mirage.

There would be no bargaining over the territories of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, he said.

Nevertheless, political analysts said Likud plans to depict Begin in the campaign as its guide in whose footsteps the present leadership follows.

The entire Likud leadership attended the rally, except Foreign Minister David Levy who is in Lagos, where Nigeria and Israel are re-establishing the diplomatic ties broken in 1973.

Earlier, caravans of buses bringing thousands of enthusiastic Likud supporters to the convention center passed a human chain of Labor supporters lining Jerusalem's main road. They waved posters calling for a change of government.

**COURT AFFIRMS RULING BARRING  
EX-NAZI SCIENTIST FROM CANADA**  
By Gil Kezwer

TORONTO, May 4 (JTA) -- A decision by Canadian immigration authorities to bar Nazi rocket scientist Arthur Rudolph from Canada because he committed crimes against humanity has been upheld by a federal court in Ottawa.

In a 12-page ruling released last Friday, the Federal Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal against a 1991 decision by Canada's Immigration Department denying Rudolph admission to the country on the grounds that he is a war criminal.

Rudolph is accused of using slave labor at the Mittelwerk Rocket Works at the Dora-Nordhausen camp in Germany from 1943 to the closing days of World War II.

At least 20,000 French, Belgian, Czech, Polish and Russian prisoners died of starvation, brutality, disease or execution in the tunnels where Rudolph supervised production of the Nazis' supersonic revenge weapon.

The three-judge panel, headed by Justice James Huggess and including Justices Arthur Stone and Mark MacGuigan, ruled that if any criticism were to be made of immigration adjudicator William Willoughby, it was that he placed "too high a standard of proof upon the government" and gave Rudolph a benefit of doubt to which he was not entitled.

Rudolph, 85, was scooped up by the Americans at the end of the World War II, along with 1,600 top Nazi scientists, to prevent his capture by the Soviets. The Germans were brought to the United States under a clandestine scheme known as Operation Paperclip.

In the United States, Rudolph worked with his former boss Werner von Braun on the Saturn V project, which launched American astronauts to the moon.

**Wants To Regain U.S. Citizenship**

In 1984, Rudolph moved to Hamburg, Germany, after cutting a deal with the U.S. Justice Department.

Rather than face prosecution by Washington's Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations, he agreed to depart the United States permanently and to relinquish the American citizenship he obtained in 1954.

The OSI agreed not to contest the continuation of his U.S. \$50,000-a-year pension.

Rudolph now wants to regain his U.S. citizenship, claiming he forfeited it under duress.

His arrival here without a visa on a July 1, 1990 Lufthansa flight from Germany was part of a well-organized campaign.

It was mounted by Friends of Arthur Rudolph, an organization based in Huntsville, Ala., where he worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Space Center on the Saturn project, and by his daughter, Marianne, 55, a graphic artist for NASA in San Jose, Calif.

Rudolph's lawyer, Barbara Kulaszka, also co-defended alleged Hungarian war criminal Imre Finta of Toronto in a sensational eight-month trial, which ended in his acquittal in May 1990.

Last week, the Ontario Court of Appeal dismissed a bid by the Justice Department for a retrial. That case will likely be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

But Rudolph has run out of legal recourse here, since his case was a civil immigration matter rather than a criminal prosecution.

**ANC LEADER ADDRESSES JEWISH GROUP,  
AS TIES BETWEEN TWO GROW STRONGER**  
By Suzanne Belling

JOHANNESBURG, May 4 (JTA) -- South African Jewry took a step closer to forging ties with Nelson Mandela's African National Congress when the prestigious Jerusalem Club was recently addressed for the first time by a black speaker.

Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary-general of the ANC, told a capacity audience here that "there are long roads to walk together to shape the future of this country."

The Jerusalem Club is sponsored by the joint Israel United Appeal-United Communal Fund Campaign. Its chairman, Tony Leon, a member of Parliament of the opposition Democratic Party, extended the invitation in what was described as a post-apartheid outreach effort.

Ramaphosa described the squalor of black squatter camps where there could be one water faucet for 15,000 people. "I'd like South African Jews, all of us true South Africans, to give them assistance to lead a decent kind of life," he said.

The ANC official also spoke of violence in the black township of Alexandra where hundreds of families have been left homeless.

If such conditions existed in an upscale white suburb, the entire defense and police force would have been summoned to apprehend the perpetrators, he said.

**AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT IS URGED  
TO AMEND LAWS ON RACISM, DIVORCE**  
By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, May 4 (JTA) -- The Australian Jewish community and Jewish women in particular were pleased by the legal reforms recommended to Parliament this week.

One change would automatically increase the penalty for criminal actions proven to have a racist element. Another would help women obtain a get, a religious divorce.

The suggested changes are contained in a 313-page "Report on Multiculturalism and the Law," which the Australian Law Reform Commission submitted to Parliament after 30 months of research, public hearings and debate.

The law commission concluded, in overwhelming agreement with testimony presented by Jewish groups, that granting religious divorces should be part of the legal settlement process.

Josie Lacey, who convened the Women's Issues Group in the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, said that the commission's proposal marks "a giant step forward."

Despite appeals by animal rights groups to ban kosher ritual slaughtering, the commission made no comment on that subject.

Its report observed that racism and racial violence is so prevalent and far-reaching in Australia that a new criminal offense should be added to the statutes in the interests of "maintaining harmony and peaceful co-existence."

Draft legislation recommended by the commission would automatically increase by 50 percent the penalty for a crime proven to have a racial element. But while incitement to racial hatred would be made unlawful, it would not be treated as a criminal offense.

Leslie Caplan, president of the Executive Council, said the Jewish community regrets "that only civil law remedies are anticipated, even for serious offenders."