

75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR**FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1992****VOL. 70, NO. 99****ANOTHER POSSIBLE U.S.-ISRAEL RIFT
LAUNCHED WITH JOINT SPACE RESEARCH**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 21 (JTA) -- Another area of dispute between the United States and Israel surfaced this week when U.S. Ambassador William Harrop complained at a space research symposium here Wednesday that Israel was not sufficiently sharing information with Washington about its space program.

"I urge Israeli space officials and space scientists to increase the dialogue with their American counterparts. I have the impression that this exchange has been too much in one direction till now," the envoy told members of Tel Aviv University's Board of Governors.

"Only after there is a free flow of information back and forth can an intelligent decision be made," he said.

His charge was promptly denied by the head of Israel's space research activities, Professor Yuval Ne'eman. "Everything is in the open," declared Ne'eman, who is minister of science and energy.

Ne'eman, who heads Tel Aviv University's physics department and is leader of the right-wing Tehiya party, said Israel maintains no secrecy with regard to its space program and indeed "a great deal is done in collaboration with NASA."

But foreign reports say the conviction has grown in Israel since the Persian Gulf War that it needs to have its own spy satellite in space because of the paucity of data it received from the United States about Iraq's capabilities during the war.

Israeli and U.S. soldiers manning the Patriot anti-missile batteries relied on American satellite information about Scud launchings from U.S. spy satellites orbiting the Earth.

NASA Scientist In Israel

Israel in recent years launched two missile-borne space satellites, the Ofek-1 and Ofek-2, designed and built here. Although the successful launchings were publicized, Israel has refused to disclose the purpose of the satellites.

Other Israeli officials declined to comment on the envoy's remarks.

The ambassador's allegations come at a time of increased strain in relations between the two countries, exemplified by the Bush administration's refusal to grant Israel guarantees for \$10 billion in loans to help absorb immigrants because Israel refused to freeze its accelerated settlement-building in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Most recently, Israel clashed with Washington over the administration's statement that it supports U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948, which recognizes the right of return or compensation for Palestinians who fled Israel.

The new controversy came with the arrival in Israel of NASA scientist-astronaut William Thornton, a specialist in space medicine, who came here to be briefed by Israeli scientists on Israel's latest space project.

Professor Thornton, who is based at the Johnson Space Center outside Houston, will tour an Israeli air force base and Israel Space Indus-

tries, where he will examine an ultraviolet space telescope, known as the TAUVEY, which will be lifted into space from a Russian launch.

A former U.S. Air Force medical officer, Thornton joined NASA in 1967 to study the effects of space travel on the human cardiovascular, musculo-skeletal and neurological systems. He was a member of the Orbiter space mission in 1983.

An Experiment With Insects

A highlight of his visit will be a briefing by Professor Ya'akov Yishai of Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine on Israel's plans to send a nest of wasps and hornets into space aboard the U.S. space shuttle, to study the insects' behavior in a non-gravitational environment and its effect on their natural navigation systems and bloodstreams.

The Israeli scientists are hoping this study will yield insight on how humans might be affected by very long space journeys, Yishai explained.

In addition to his briefings, Thornton is scheduled to lecture at Tel Aviv University and at the Haifa Institute of Technology-Technion.

The Board of Governors symposium was shown models of the TAUVEY, which was designed at Tel Aviv University's Space Astrophysics Department and is being built by the El-Op company in Ness Ziona.

The TAUVEY is intended to be lifted into space in 1994 from a Russian platform, explained Professor Noah Brosh, coordinator of the space telescope project.

It is to operate in tandem with two European telescopes for X-ray and gamma ray observations to further map the heavens, including quasars, celestial objects which are 4 billion to 10 billion light years away.

The two programs will cost some \$10.5 million, said Tel Aviv University Professor Akiva Bar-Nun, head of the Israeli Space Agency.

**PANEL REVIEWING AIPAC PRACTICE
OF PROVIDING DATA ON CANDIDATES**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA) -- The American Israel Public Affairs Committee's practice of providing information about political candidates to pro-Israel groups is being reviewed by the Federal Election Commission to see if it conforms to U.S. law.

At stake is the pro-Israel lobby's practice of "meeting with candidates for federal office and conveying the information derived at such meetings to the general public in a manner which suggests persons support the candidates financially and otherwise," the commission said in a letter reportedly sent to AIPAC in early February.

Corporations are barred by law from engaging in such practices. But an FEC exemption allows "an incorporated membership organization to communicate with its members on any subject, including partisan electioneering messages," as long as the organization does not facilitate the making of political contributions by its members.

The FEC's Office of General Counsel reportedly is recommending that the commission's six

members conclude that AIPAC does not meet the FEC's standard of being a "membership organization."

If the commissioners agree with the office's conclusion, AIPAC would either have to stop providing information about political candidates or make whatever internal changes are necessary to qualify as a membership organization.

FEC officials said they could not comment on the AIPAC case or any other ongoing review. But Fred Eiland, the commission's spokesman, said that when the FEC formally finds a violation to have occurred, it proposes how the affected party can modify its practices to conform to FEC policy.

Toby Dershowitz, spokeswoman for AIPAC, said the issue that the FEC is reviewing is "primarily technical in nature and hinges on the legal definition of a 'membership organization.'"

"The law is not clear on this matter, and AIPAC is one of a diverse group of issue-oriented organizations engaged in discussions with the FEC about the question," said Dershowitz.

She expressed confidence that the issue "will eventually be resolved in our favor."

'Members Have A Say'

Exactly how the FEC Office of General Counsel allegedly determined that AIPAC is not a membership organization is not clear.

But Ed Zuckerman, editor and publisher of the newsletter PACs & Lobbies, said that the FEC would have examined how much input the membership has into AIPAC's activities.

The FEC would be concerned if "you're really a closed shop" that has "a lot of people who are titular members but who have no say."

If that is the case, "then you don't have the right to distribute a lot of information to your members," Zuckerman said.

Morris Amitay, a former executive director of AIPAC and now treasurer of the Washington PAC, a pro-Israel political action committee, said AIPAC should definitely be viewed as a membership organization.

AIPAC has a "big executive committee of over 100 people. They vote on policy and also the entire membership votes on the policy statements," he said.

"I think that would show that the members have a say in the running of the organization," he said. But he added: "You can't have 50,000 or 55,000 members making all the decisions."

The FEC inquiry stems from a 1989 complaint filed by several staunch opponents of AIPAC, notably former Rep. Paul Findley (R-Ill.) who blamed the pro-Israel lobby for his 1982 congressional defeat.

That complaint was filed by Dick Mayberry, a Washington lawyer who, coincidentally, is representing Texas businessman H. Ross Perot before the FEC in his exploratory presidential bid.

After the 1989 complaint, the FEC absolved AIPAC of charges that it acts as a "super PAC" by coordinating with dozens of pro-Israel political action committees that provide millions of dollars each election year to House and Senate candidates.

But even if the FEC rules against AIPAC this time around, few think it will have an adverse impact on the lobby's political activities.

Victor Marchetti, editor of New American View, an anti-Israel newsletter that first reported on the FEC review of AIPAC, said that if there were a ruling against AIPAC, "I don't think it

would change in any way their ability to carry out their mission."

"It would just mean that people like Tom Dine," AIPAC's executive director, "would have to do more things to show that the membership is involved, and this would just put a burden on him" as well as the staff and lay leaders, he said.

LIKUD ACCUSED BY LABOR OF TRYING TO SMEAR RABIN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) -- With polls showing it ahead in public favor, the Labor Party accused Likud this week of preparing a personal smear campaign against Yitzhak Rabin.

Police Minister Ronni Milo of Likud sounded an indignant denial Wednesday. But Micha Harish, the Labor Party's secretary-general, told reporters that Likud was preparing to hand out tens of thousands of plastic cups bearing the legend "The country needs a sober prime minister."

The implication is that Rabin, who would be prime minister in a Labor-led government, is a drunkard. Harish challenged Milo to take a lie-detector test to disprove the charge.

Media reports Thursday claimed Likud has hired researchers to dig up material from Rabin's past to show he cannot function under pressure.

Rabin was Israel Defense Force chief of staff during the 1967 Six-Day War. He served subsequently as Israeli ambassador to Washington, as prime minister and defense minister.

Labor sources claim Likud not only is trying to dig up dirt on those periods of his career but plans to depict Rabin's wife, Leah, as having excessive and prejudicial influence over him.

"I expected as much," Rabin commented to reporters Wednesday night. According to Labor campaign chiefs, Likud will resort to personal mudslinging out of "a state of panic."

Meanwhile, a more arcane aspect of the elections wound to conclusion Thursday when Likud and the right-wing Tsomet faction announced they have signed a "remainder" agreement.

The agreements concern the disposition of the excess votes a party may get which are more than enough to elect one candidate to the Knesset but insufficient to bring in the next candidate on the list.

Some critics despair, "Only in Israel," but the practice could be common to any legislature elected by proportional representation.

If 25,000 votes are needed for one Knesset mandate and a party polls 80,000, it gets three seats, with 5,000 votes left.

If it has a remainder agreement with another party, whichever of the two has the larger remainder gets the remainders of both. Combined, they could be sufficient to win it another Knesset seat.

Remainder agreements do not necessarily signify political alliances between the signatories in government or the opposition. But they are usually contracted between parties of similar ideological stripe.

The right-wing Moledet and Tehiya parties signed a remainder agreement Wednesday. The National Religious Party remains the only one of Israel's traditional parties without such an arrangement.

REMINDER: The JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published on Monday, May 25.

ISRAEL RETALIATES VIGOROUSLY AGAINST HEZBOLLAH ATTACK ON SLA By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 21 (JTA) -- The Israeli air force has retaliated vigorously for a Hezbollah onslaught against the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

Israeli jets blasted bases of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite militia in the eastern region of Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, near the Syrian border, Thursday morning.

Until now, Israel had refrained from attacking in that region, which is under de facto Syrian control. An Israel Defense Force spokesman said all aircraft returned safely to their bases.

Their targets were Yanta village, less than 2 miles from the Syrian border, where Hezbollah maintains a headquarters, and Nebi Sheet.

Hezbollah sources said seven of its men were killed and 18 wounded in waves of attacks by six Israeli fighter bombers. Five of the dead and 13 of the wounded were victims of delayed action bombs and rockets dropped by the Israelis, which exploded three hours after the raid, Hezbollah said.

According to a report by Baalbek Radio in the Bekaa Valley, a member of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard who was training Hezbollah forces died in the raid.

Voice of Lebanon Radio reported late Thursday that Israeli air force attack helicopters strafed a house in Jibsheet village in southern Lebanon at 4:30 p.m. local time. They reportedly hit the home of a Hezbollah chieftain.

Baalbek Radio reported that 155mm IDF artillery shelled several villages in the Bekaa Valley containing local Hezbollah bases and training grounds.

Concern Over Sophistication

The latest clash occurred after a well-executed Hezbollah attack on SLA positions in Alman village in the western section of the southern Lebanon security zone Tuesday.

According to Israeli sources, one SLA soldier was killed and four were captured, including the commander of the unit. Alman village was overrun and briefly occupied by Hezbollah forces.

Israeli and SLA artillery engaged in gun duels with Hezbollah on Tuesday and Wednesday and the Israeli air attacks followed Thursday.

The IDF, however, was clearly disturbed by the growing sophistication of the Iranian-trained Hezbollah forces and the apparent shortcomings of the SLA, a mercenary army largely of Lebanese Christians which patrols the security zone and areas north of it in close collaboration with the IDF.

The SLA troops clearly were unprepared for the bold tactics of Hezbollah, which has rarely mounted a direct ground assault on their positions.

While some military experts said the latest incident should not be taken as a sign of SLA weakness, veteran observers said the training of the Shi'ite fundamentalists by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard in Syrian-controlled territory was having its effect.

Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens accused the Syrian and Lebanese governments of doing nothing to halt Hezbollah's terrorist activities and were therefore responsible for the recent spate of attacks on SLA and IDF positions in the security zone.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT FIGURES DENY RUSSIA IS INTERVENING TO FREE SPY By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 21 (JTA) -- Government officials persist in denying there has been any official intervention by Russia to free Israeli businessman Shabtai Kalmanovich, who is serving a nine-year prison sentence for spying for the old Soviet Union.

Although the news media has published material suggesting the contrary, Yossi Ben-Aharon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, insisted in an Israel Radio interview Thursday that there have been no official requests for Kalmanovich's release.

He admitted, however, that "unofficial approaches" had been made by Russian personalities and private individuals in recent months.

"We replied that such requests would only be entertained after Russia resumed diplomatic relations with Israel," Ben-Aharon said. He implied that now that normal relations have been restored, the case could be reconsidered.

But Israeli newspapers published photocopies of a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir from the Russian vice president, Alexander Rutskoi, appealing for the release of Kalmanovich for humanitarian reasons, specifically his poor health.

Moreover, Rutskoi is widely believed to have raised the subject with Shamir during his official visit to Jerusalem last month.

Police Minister Ronni Milo told reporters he had heard that unofficial requests have been made on behalf of Kalmanovich by Russians and others. But "the question of his release is up to the political echelons. We in the police and the prison services are only holding him," Milo said.

Suffering From Gangrene

Kalmanovich came to Israel in the 1980s and established himself as a successful businessman and society figure. He was arrested in 1988 and sentenced to nine years in prison for espionage and has been behind bars for four years.

For the past 11 months, Kalmanovich has been in the hospital ward at Ramla prison, reportedly suffering from multiple stomach ulcers and gangrenous legs resulting from a circulatory disorder.

He underwent surgery twice about a year ago but it might be necessary to amputate one of his legs, news reports said.

The prisoner was fit enough for a bedside interview Thursday by Israel Radio. He said he has been visited by Israeli and Russian individuals and was informed that unofficial representations were being made for him.

But he heard nothing officially and doubted he would be released soon, Kalmanovich said.

His lawyer, Amnon Zichroni, said if he was released, Kalmanovich, who has a wife and teenage daughter, would prefer to stay in Israel than return to Russia because of the superior quality of medical care here.

Zichroni, meanwhile, refused to comment on the status of another alleged former Soviet spy.

According to foreign press reports, Professor Marcus Klinberg, former deputy manager of the Biological Research Institute in Ness Ziona, was arrested in 1983 by Israel's internal security agency, Shin Bet.

He was reportedly charged with spying for the Soviet Union and imprisoned after a secret trial. But this has never been confirmed officially.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CALL FOR EXAMINATION OF ANTI-SEMITISM

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, May 21 (JTA) -- The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference issued a strong statement this week urging clergy and laity alike to examine the phenomenon of anti-Semitism by confronting it frankly and honestly in the Church's "history books, courses and seminary curricula."

The statement, by the policy-making body of Australia's largest single denomination, put the Catholic Church in the forefront of Christian-Jewish dialogue here. It stressed the need for Catholics to "foster mutual understanding" with Jews.

Addressed to Catholic teachers, preachers and church members, it was considered necessary, the Bishops Conference said, because of the high level of anti-Semitic incidents in Australia, the advent of Holocaust denial, the "relativizing of (that) event and impatience with Jewish sensitivity."

Other contributing factors, the bishops said, were the upsurge of fundamentalism, "especially in Scripture interpretation; the ever-increasing multicultural and multifield nature of our society" and the recognition that Christianity has its roots in Judaism.

The statement was swiftly hailed by Jewish spokesmen. "A landmark in interreligious history," said Rabbi Raymond Apple, chairman of the New South Wales Council of Christians and Jews.

"All who believe in interreligious harmony will welcome this statement," he said.

The Bishops Conference condemned proselytizing, "which does not respect human freedom." It urged Christians to understand the way Jews "define themselves" and noted that "topics such as the Nazi attempt to annihilate the Jews and the rebirth of the State of Israel will obviously come up for discussion."

"Catholics should make an honest effort to understand the link between the land and the people," the statement said.

That drew expressions of approval from the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. The recognition of the centrality of Israel in Jewish life and opposition to proselytizing are major advances and particularly welcome, council President Leslie Caplan told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Australian Jewry's relationships with other Christian denominations are relatively less advanced. The Anglican Church is developing policy relevant to dialogue with Jews more slowly. The Uniting Church, the third-largest Christian denomination in Australia, has suggested a formal series of "discussions" with Jewish representatives prior to the development of specific policies.

SPANISH COURT FROWNS ON NAZI COMICS

By Judith Lew

MADRID, May 19 (JTA) -- A Barcelona court has sentenced the publisher of an anti-Semitic comic book to 32 days in jail and fined him \$1,000.

The publisher, Damian Carulla, was also forbidden to publish further editions of the comic book "Hitler SS" in Spain. The ruling overturned an earlier court decision that had absolved Carulla and his Makoki publishing house of wrongdoing.

"Hitler SS" takes place inside a concentration camp and mocks the inmates. It is a Spanish

translation of a comic book produced by a French team, writer Gourio and illustrator Vuillemin.

The court said it was obvious who the people denigrated in the book were and observed that "Jews can find no humor in the disrespect and lack of consideration for their feelings or those of their relatives who lived through the concentration camps."

According to attorney Dalia Levinson, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the B'nai B'rith and a survivors group in Barcelona, Carulla will probably appeal the verdict to the highest court, contending that his right to freedom of expression has been violated.

LEVY ANNOUNCES NEW POSTINGS FOR SEVERAL OF HIS PERSONNEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has appointed a number of foreign service professionals to desirable postings at home and abroad, calculated to advance their careers, whatever the outcome of the elections now only a month away.

All were approved by the Foreign Ministry's workers committee. But opposition Knesset member Yossi Sarid, calling them "political appointments," asked the attorney general to advise the appointees that their new jobs may be temporary if the elections result in a change of national leadership.

Uri Oren, Levy's close adviser for many years, has been named consul general in Los Angeles, replacing Brig. Gen. Ran Packer.

Former Likud Knesset member Dror Seigerman was appointed consul general in Toronto.

Yehudi Kenar will be the new consul general in Philadelphia, and Meir Romem will be consul general in Houston.

Levy's choices were bipartisan. Uriel Savir, the current consul general in New York, who was appointed by Shimon Peres when the then Labor Party leader was foreign minister, has been named by Levy to serve as deputy director general for Western European affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

Another diplomat associated with Labor, Colette Avital, now ambassador to Portugal, will be deputy director general for special projects.

Oded Eran will be deputy director general for economic affairs, and Amos Granor will serve as deputy director general in charge of the peace process.

DUTCH SHUL CAN'T GET JUDAICA BACK

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, May 21 (JTA) -- Amsterdam's Ashkenazic Congregation loaned three valuable artifacts to the state-subsidized Jewish Museum. But now it can't get them back.

The Ministry of Welfare and Culture has declared the objects national treasures that are part of the history of Jews in the Netherlands.

They must never be removed from the museum, even temporarily, the ministry decreed.

The Ashkenazic Congregation protested angrily and has asked the Dutch Council of State for a final decision. The congregation maintains that the order infringes on its religious freedom because it can never again make use of its precious possessions.

They are a 14th-century festival prayerbook, a Torah shrine of the 18th century and a synagogue menorah dating from 1753.