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**FBI HEAD PRAISES ISRAELI POLICE FOR ITS HELP ON BRIBERY INQUIRY**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 10 (JTA) -- The Israeli police have been praised by FBI Director William Sessions for their cooperation in the investigation of a bribery scandal involving an Israeli air force general and an American defense contractor.

Details of Sessions' letter to Police Deputy Commander Gabbi Waterman were released Tuesday amid reports that a U.S. congressman was asking for economic sanctions against Israel.

According to the reports, Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), chairman of the House subcommittee on oversight and investigations, wrote to Defense Secretary Dick Cheney suggesting economic reprisals against Israel because of its alleged non-cooperation in the bribery investigation.

But Sessions said Israel's cooperation substantially helped the FBI to complete its investigation.

His letter of May 26 to Waterman, who heads the Serious Crimes Division of Israel's national police, noted that the FBI was given access to Israeli air force bases, allowed to take testimony from air force officers and to photograph various installations, including jet engine test sites, that figured in the investigation.

The scandal involved Brig. Gen. Rami Dotan, who was the chief procurement officer for the Israeli air force in the United States in the mid-1980s. He was convicted in Israel of accepting bribes from a high-ranking official of the General Electric Corp., a manufacturer of jet engines.

Dotan was stripped of the rank of private and is serving a 13-year prison sentence.

**Aid Convicted Of Conspiracy**

The U.S. Justice Department, meanwhile, filed a complaint against G.E. charging its aircraft engines division with fraud. The trial is scheduled to begin in November, but the Pentagon has already barred the aircraft engines division from competing for U.S. government contracts.

Israel announced last week that it, too, was halting future business with the division.

The allegation of Israel's non-cooperation may have arisen from its rejection of American requests to question Dotan in person. That was attributed to fear that the disgraced officer might disclose secrets, unrelated to the bribery affair, that could compromise Israel's security.

Meanwhile, a former Dotan subordinate was found guilty of conspiracy to inflict bodily harm on the former civilian employee of the air force purchasing mission, Ofer Pa'il, who blew the whistle on the scandal.

Senior Staff Sgt. Maj. Ya'acov Frank was convicted of conspiracy, accepting a bribe, illegal possession of foreign currency and improper behavior. He drew a six-year jail sentence, a six-month suspended sentence, was fined \$700 and reduced in rank to private.

Frank admitted that Dotan gave him \$50,000 to hire an assassin to silence Pa'il. But instead of paying a hit man, Frank said he handed the money to one Zvi Berkowitz to give to the Lubavitcher rebbe in Brooklyn to pray for Pa'il to stop harming Israel's security.

**MEASURE WOULD HAVE U.S. ADOPT TOUGHER STAND ON ARAB BOYCOTT**By Cynthia Mann  
States News Service

WASHINGTON, June 10 (JTA) -- Congress is trying to prod the Bush administration into taking a more aggressive stand against the Arab League boycott of both Israel and companies that do business with it.

The Ways and Means trade subcommittee agreed Tuesday to amend a proposed trade bill to include a provision requiring the U.S. trade representative to do a country-by-country investigation of the boycott and the way it is implemented.

"The Arab boycott is having an adverse and unjustifiable effect on American companies," Robert Matsui (D-Calif.), the amendment's sponsor, said in a statement.

"It is absolutely unacceptable for Arab League countries to boycott our products, particularly after the United States defended so many Arab nations in the Gulf War."

If the measure becomes law, the documentation it requires could be the impetus for legislation in other countries against compliance with what is known as the secondary Arab boycott, observed Will Maslow, general counsel for the American Jewish Congress and editor of its newsletter Boycott Report.

"This would help level the playing field," said Jess Hordes, Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League.

**Likely To Remain In Bill**

While U.S. laws prohibiting compliance with the boycott have been a success, the Matsui measure "could help create unified polices among major trading countries to combat intrusive boycott requirements in commercial decisions" that are "inconsistent with free trade principles," said Hordes.

ADL last week sent a letter to Secretary of State James Baker urging the seven leading industrialized nations to condemn the secondary boycott as incompatible with free trade, Hordes said.

Last year, the G-7 countries linked a condemnation of the boycott to a suspension of settlements in the Israeli-administered territories, a link pro-Israel groups protested as irrelevant and unfair.

The Matsui amendment commends the U.S. trade representative for including the Arab boycott for the first time in its 1992 annual report on foreign trade barriers that put U.S. companies at a competitive disadvantage.

But Matsui said it was critical for the trade representative to go further. His amendment calls for the trade representative to analyze and identify the extent to which governments allow or encourage their companies to comply with Arab boycotts of U.S. companies.

It also calls for documentation on how countries blacklist companies and enforce the boycott.

Spokespersons for U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills had no comment on the amendment.

Congressional sources said the amendment is likely to remain in the bill after markup by the

full Ways and Means Committee, which is expected within the next two weeks.

The bulk of the trade bill would require the administration to get tougher with countries that violate fair trade practices and persistently run big trade imbalances with the United States.

It looks increasingly likely that the House of Representatives will pass a trade bill this year, while odds are slimmer in the Senate.

**TEXAS DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION  
ADOPTS A PRO-ISRAEL PLATFORM**

By Cynthia Mann  
States News Service

WASHINGTON, June 10 (JTA) -- After a floor fight with Arab-American delegates, pro-Israel forces succeeded last weekend in getting the Texas state Democratic convention to adopt a platform plank affirming the special relationship between the United States and Israel.

"When it was time to stand up, our friends stood with us," said Marc Stanley, chairman of Texans for Justice and Freedom, a 3-year-old group that promotes grass-roots support for Israel.

"The language reaffirms the Democratic party's 44-year support for Israel," said Steve Gutow, director of the National Jewish Democratic Council. "The entire pantheon of this party" stood up and declared that the friendship between America and Israel "is a cause worth fighting for in this country," he said.

The Middle East plank was largely agreed upon before the convention. It applauds the Arab-Israeli peace process, calling it "a real opportunity" for "a just and lasting peace, with security for Israel and the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

But after a floor fight with Arab-American Democrats, the platform committee adopted additional language that went further.

"The Democratic Party believes that the U.S. and Israel share a longstanding relationship based on shared values, a mutual commitment to democracy and a strategic alliance that benefits both nations; and therefore, our foreign policy in the Middle East should reflect the special nature of this relationship," the platform now reads.

The floor fight was triggered after Arab-American delegates distributed anti-Israel leaflets, a move Texas Democratic Party Chair Bob Slagle decried before the delegates as a violation of the pre-convention agreement.

That agreement called for a "certain code of conduct which ruled out provocation from either side," said Stanley. But there were "several indications" that the Arab-Americans "were not playing it straight," he said.

Stanley said those who rallied around Israel included labor activists, teachers, Hispanics and African-Americans.

James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute, dismissed the leaflet distribution as a pretext used by pro-Israel forces to derail what he said could have been a historic compromise.

Zogby, who was not at the convention, said Arab-Americans had been betrayed at the convention and that pro-Israel groups were intolerant and unwilling to cooperate.

For Stanley, the weekend was a victory and an affirmation. "The Jews are a fundamental part of the Texas Democratic Party and the national Democratic Party," he said, "and the Democratic Party is a good home for the Jews."

**BONN INSISTS IT'S NOT COMMITTED  
TO RELEASE HAMADIS FOR HOSTAGES**

By David Kantor

BONN, June 10 (JTA) -- Germany insists it has made no commitments to the kidnappers of two German relief workers in Lebanon to release a pair of Arab terrorists from prison in Germany.

A statement Monday by the Foreign Ministry denied news reports in Israel that Germany promised to free the brothers Mohammed and Abbas Hamadi or pay ransom to the Hamadi clan in Lebanon, believed to be holding the two German nationals hostage.

The kidnappers have hinted in recent days that the release of the Germans, Heinrich Strubig and Thomas Kemptner, was imminent. That triggered rumors of a possible deal with Bonn for an exchange of prisoners.

But officials here stressed Germany is standing by its resolve not to give in to terrorists.

Mohammed Hamadi is serving a life sentence for the 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner and the murder of U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem. He was tried in Germany after Bonn refused an extradition request from the United States.

Abbas Hamadi is serving a 13-year sentence for kidnapping two Germans in Lebanon in an unsuccessful ploy to free his brother. Those kidnap victims were subsequently released.

**CHILEAN LAWMAKERS ASK GOVERNMENT  
TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO'S LEGITIMACY**

By Victoria Verlichak

BUENOS AIRES, June 10 (JTA) -- Three Chilean congressmen, members of the ruling Christian Democratic Party, have asked the government to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as "the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The lawmakers charged Israel is pressuring Chile and criticized the government for being too "careful and conservative" in the matter.

The popular but unreliable daily La Tercera reported May 28 that the Foreign Ministry was about to authorize the PLO to open an office in Santiago, the Chilean capital. But nothing further has been heard on the subject.

Meanwhile, Israel's ambassador to Chile, Daniel Mokady, has come into conflict with the National Renovation Party, which has taken a sharp pro-Palestinian slant.

The party, which supported the right-wing dictatorship of former President Pinochet, complained in a public statement last month about "the almost zero progress" made so far in the Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

"On these negotiations depend the long-sought and justified self-determination of the Palestinians, who have a right to an independent state," the Renovation Party said.

The Israeli envoy responded with a letter to the media presenting Israel's point of view. He complained that the Renovation Party's statement was "untimely and without basis."

The party, calling his letter "inappropriate and impertinent," accused the ambassador of "meddling in the internal affairs of a political party in the host country."

On the same day, however, the Representative Committee of Chilean Jewish Organizations, the umbrella group of Chile's 17,000 Jews, expressed its "surprise" and "displeasure" with the Renovation Party's statement on the Middle East.

## JEW AMONG PATCHWORK OF RELIGIONS REPRESENTED AT EARTH SUMMIT IN RIO

By Jayme Brener

SAO PAULO, Brazil, June 10 (JTA) -- Rabbis and Jewish activists were in the forefront of a number of ecumenical activities organized to lend moral support to the Earth Summit that opened last week in Rio de Janeiro.

On Tuesday, Rabbi Henry Sobel, a leading Conservative rabbi in Brazil, took part in an interfaith prayer service held at the Se Cathedral in Sao Paulo, along with the Dalai Lama from Tibet, Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns of Sao Paulo and Rev. Jaime Wright of the Independent Presbyterian Church.

Exactly one week earlier, more than 300 Jews took part in a "Nightwatch" attended by 5,000 people at Aterro do Flamengo, Rio de Janeiro's seaside.

It was part of the Global Forum, a broad panel of alternative activities developed by hundreds of non-government organizations as a sideshow to the official Earth Summit forum.

Jewish groups at the Nightwatch were led by Rabbi Nilton Bonder of the Jewish Congregation of Brazil, a Conservative congregation in Rio. He was joined by Rabbi Zalman Schachter of Philadelphia, Israeli ecological leader Peggy Brell and Susannah Heschel, an American Jewish feminist writer and professor.

The Jews mixed freely with colorfully dressed representatives of Afro-Brazilian religions, Latin American Indians and Sunni Moslems.

"It is hardly usual to see all these different people together. That's really impressive," said Edda Bergmann, director for interreligious dialogue at B'nai Brith Brazil.

### An 'Ecological Kaddish'

Every religion had its own tent where religious rituals were performed throughout the night.

Inside the Jewish tent, Rabbi Bonder, known for his "alternative" approach to Judaism, recited an "ecological Kaddish" for animal species menaced by extinction.

Just a step away were Santo Daime activists. Santo Daime is an Indian-Christian religion, based in the use of a hallucinogenic tea that causes "visions."

Following the Nightwatch, religious leaders organized a panel discussion in which each presented a facet of their own faith, using languages of another.

The Buddhist Dalai Lama sang "Hava Nagila" and joined Rabbi Sobel and Schachter in prayer for "a new world of peace."

Schachter, wearing a green suit and turban, held a small papaya fruit and palm leaf as an ecological substitute for the etrog and lulav.

Sobel, a Portuguese-born, American-educated rabbi, greeted the Dalai Lama on his first visit to Brazil. "Our world needs humble and tolerant people like him," Sobel said.

Religious leaders were invited to participate in a World Interparliamentary Summit special panel in Rio that drafted a "Declaration of the Earth," in defense of the environment.

The summit established the "Green Cross," an "SOS-Earth" panel of ecological NGOs that invited former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to be its president.

Professor Heschel warned that "indifference toward the planet and our population is the worst attitude we can take." She also urged "more

respect toward women. As the Earth is a female, she could not develop properly unless the world respects women."

In an interview, Heschel explained why she came to Brazil.

"My participation in the summit was prompted by a neglect of Jewish values," she said. "Which of our religious teachings allows us to exploit the environment? The Torah commands us to protect the Earth, yet it is not stressed by our rabbis and our spiritual leaders.

"We are not only here because we are concerned about the environment," she said. "Unfortunately, we are here because the Earth is revolting against us."

"We have this idea that God is presented as all-powerful, and that the world is in his hands, and that he will take care of it."

That is "an easy way to relinquish our own responsibility," she said. But the fact that "the Earth is holy does not mean that it's invulnerable to our neglect."

(JTA student intern Alexandra J. Wall in New York contributed to this report.)

## GORBACHEV TO SEE ISRAELI LEADERS DURING A FOUR-DAY VISIT NEXT WEEK

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, June 10 (JTA) -- Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will begin a four-day visit to Israel on Sunday.

Though no longer in office, Gorbachev will meet with key Israeli figures and be awarded several honors during the course of his stay.

The former Soviet leader will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, President Chaim Herzog, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek, Foreign Minister David Levy and Labor Party leader Yitzhak Rabin.

Gorbachev will also be feted by some of the country's top universities. He will receive an honorary doctorate from Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan and the Harvey Peace Prize from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa.

The Harvey Prize, which bears a cash award of \$35,000, will be presented to Gorbachev for his role in reducing regional tensions, and for permitting Soviet Jews to emigrate.

At a news briefing Wednesday, the Technion announced that Gorbachev won the award "for his substantial contributions to peace in our region by removing his nation from an active position in the Israel-Arab crisis, his contribution in reducing the regional arms race, and his stand against despotism during the Gulf crisis.

"Under his leadership, his country formulated a more balanced stand in the Middle East crisis, and renewed its diplomatic relations with Israel. These activities contributed to paving the way to the Madrid peace conference, a milestone in the peace process between Israel and the Arab peoples."

Technion President Zehev Tadmor lauded Gorbachev's "courage in opening the gates of the former Soviet Union and permitting the massive immigration of Soviet Jewry to Israel."

Hebrew University Professor Shlomo Avineri noted that Gorbachev "helped to redress the balance of the Middle East. Thanks to his actions, the Arab countries have had to realize that Israel will not disappear."

Gorbachev, he said, "changed the nature of the conflict and paved the way for the Madrid peace talks. It's not peace, but it is a beginning.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
ISRAEL'S EXPO '92 PAVILION LEAVES  
VISITORS SCRATCHING THEIR HEADS**

By Judith Lew

SEVILLE, Spain (JTA) -- Two months after Expo '92 opened its gates, organizers at the Israeli pavilion are trying to figure how to communicate a message they thought could be transmitted without words.

The pavilion, which receives what the Israelis say are 4,000 visitors daily, was designed to represent the life of the Jews from the Torah to the peace process in a 65-projector slide show featuring 4,000 images and soothing music. But the average visitor, it turns out, comes out a bit confused about the show's point.

"It was dark," said Zarin, an English woman of Indian origin. "And then I came with my children, so it was very difficult to control them. It was all set up for you, but I think it's more proper for elderly couples. I wanted to bring my children to teach them about other countries."

"There's a whole lot of security and not much content," said Chary, a young woman from Seville. "I can't see what the meaning of it was."

One positive, although ironic, fact is that visitors have been drawn to the Israeli pavilion precisely because of its lines, caused by the wait for a security check before entering.

"People have this tendency to line up whenever they see lines," said Yoel Salpak, the pavilion's press attache.

Upon entering the pavilion, a simple hut painted in the blue and white of the Israeli flag and shaped like the House of the Book that keeps the Dead Sea Scrolls in Jerusalem, a visitor is meant to be submerged in the images that are reflected on the walls, floor and ceiling.

An audiovisual presentation runs for 16 minutes. The audience slowly follows a five-part show, walking through time by peering into glass cases to see signature objects from the millennia: a stone used in the construction of the Hulda Gate in the first century BCE, a facsimile of the Alba Bible in medieval Spain, Albert Einstein's autographed  $E=mc^2$  note, a cell-scan cancer detector developed in Israel.

**No Crowd-Pleasers**

Because Israel took a long time to decide whether to participate in the Expo, the planning was somewhat rushed.

The pavilion cost some \$7 million, far below the average cost of other Expo exhibits. And with one-third of the cost going to the structure and security, the Israeli show does not include hoopla.

Instead of dazzling visitors with high-tech screens, joyrides, "freaks" (such as the Pakistani giant dressed in Aladdin garb greeting visitors to the restaurant) or unusual crowd-pleasers -- such as Chile's Iceberg, brought in from Antarctica -- Israel chose to simply give an overview of the country and its people.

"But the audiences are a little less sophisticated than we expected," Salpak said.

Because of this, a two-minute introduction is being broadcast outside of the hut to people waiting in line.

"We had to adapt to the audience response," said Itzhak Shalev, the pavilion's director. "This is like the Roman Empire: Give the people what they want. We had to take into consideration the character and the age of the visitor, which is much younger than we expected."

More than 100 pavilions representing as many participating countries are scattered in a 531-acre site in La Cartuja island. Expo '92, the last world exposition of the century, opened April 16 and is set to go on through Oct. 12, commemorating the day Christopher Columbus set foot in the new world 500 years ago.

Of the many visitors since the Expo opened -- many of them Sevillians who take advantage of their \$300 season passes by visiting three or four times a week -- 150,000 are said to have gone through the Israeli pavilion, compared with England's 300,000, and Japan's, one of the more popular pavilions, which reports it has already passed its 1-millionth visitor.

The visitors go for the unusual. The biggest lines wrap around Canada's pavilion, presenting a giant screen with amazingly clear images, or the Fujitsu pavilion, with a very well-done 3-D movie, or Monaco's, with its aquarium representing all the fish in the country's shores.

Though only a small percentage of the visitors will eventually stop by the Israeli pavilion, they may unknowingly thank Israeli technology during those all-too-common scorching Seville days. Practically all the cooling, sprinkling, dripping and vaporizing systems and the substructure for water were set up by Israeli contractors.

**ARGENTINE JEWISH COMMUNITY BEGINS  
AN INVESTIGATION OF ANTI-SEMITISM**  
By Victoria Verlichak

BUENOS AIRES, June 9 (JTA) -- Argentina's representative Jewish body has embarked on an investigation of anti-Semitism here over a key 20-year period preceding and after World War II.

The DAIA, the Delegation of Jewish Associations of Argentina, announced a project called Testimony that seeks to trace the phenomenon from 1930 through 1950.

"We are not trying to hunt Nazis down or to follow their trails because, among other things, there is little left to do in that sense," said DAIA President Ruben Beraja.

"Our intention is to prepare a report that will reflect those years of polemics, discrimination and persecution. The dossier should help understand Argentine politics and policy during that hard period," he said.

The investigation has in fact already begun, under the supervision of the DAIA's Center for Social Studies. The center set up a committee of prominent professionals, Jews and non-Jews, to serve as consultants on the project.

It was conceived after the government raised high hopes by opening files on Nazis in Argentina -- which turned out to yield meager amounts of useful information.

But "this is not our reply to the opening of the files by the Argentine authorities," Mauricio Tenenbaum, an official of the Center for Social Studies, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"We owe our country this," he said. "We think this time we are going to get to the bottom of those terrible years, which started in the '20s with the activities of local Nazi groups."

According to the DAIA, the investigators will look into public and private files, national and international, and will interview victims or witnesses of anti-Semitism.

Although it is primarily a scholarly endeavor, the project could have political implications if it answers questions left unresolved by the opening of the official Nazi archives.