

**JACKSON REACHES OUT AGAIN TO JEWS  
AND RECEIVES ANOTHER MIXED REVIEW**  
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, July 15 (JTA) -- For the second time in just over a week, the Rev. Jesse Jackson has reached out publicly to Jews, speaking movingly about the Holocaust and proffering optimistic phrases about Israel's new government.

But like his address in Brussels last week to a conference on anti-Semitism, his speech here Tuesday to the Democratic National Convention got mixed reviews from the Jewish community.

While many saw the speech as a heartfelt step forward to heal his longstanding wounds with the Jewish community, others felt the black civil rights leader still has a long way to go.

Jackson's address focused largely on the country's domestic ills: unemployment, poverty, homelessness, discrimination. But touching on foreign policy matters, he took an opportunity to praise the election of a Labor Party government in Israel as "a step toward greater security and peace for the entire region."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's "wisdom in affirming negotiation over confrontation, land for peace, bargaining table over battlefield, has inspired hope, not only in the hearts of democratic Israel, but on the West Bank," he said.

Striving for balance, Jackson told the thousands of delegates gathered in Madison Square Garden: "Israeli security and Palestinian self-determination are inextricably bound, two sides of the same coin.

"We must stop talk about driving Jews into the sea and Palestinians from land," he said. "Let's stop war talk and have peace talk. There must be a new Israel where Jews and Palestinians can live together as brother and sister."

Jackson also referred to some of the great moral wrongs perpetrated by the U.S. government against minority groups, including Jews:

"Let us not forget that in 1939, 900 Jews were turned away from the shores of Miami by the U.S. government, sent back to Germany haunted by Hitler," he said, referring to the tragic odyssey of the S.S. St. Louis.

**'We Have To Give Him Credit'**

"It was anti-Semitic and wrong in 1939 to lock the Jews out," he said. "It was racist and wrong in 1942 to lock the Japanese-Americans out. And it is racist and wrong in 1992 to lock the Haitians out and abandon Nelson Mandela in South Africa."

Many Jewish organizational leaders said Jackson's remarks reflected a heightened sensitivity to Jewish concerns.

"What he said about Israel and Zionism are quite different than what he said a few years ago," said Albert Vorspan, senior vice president emeritus of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. "We have to give him credit for thinking and growing, and reaching out."

But Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said he found the speech "disturbing and full of moral equivalencies.

"It's one thing for Jews to say we support the effort of the Haitians" fleeing a military dictatorship to find safety in the United States,

because we remember how Jews were turned away, said Foxman.

"It's another thing to compare the Holocaust, where millions died, to as infamous an act as the incarceration of the Japanese, where no one was killed. It is this simplistic moral equation that I find continuously disturbing," he said.

Foxman said he sees "an almost embarrassing desire on the part of the Jewish community to find reasons to embrace Jackson.

"I'm ready to reach out and embrace, but I don't see very much there," he said in a telephone interview from Copenhagen.

**'Opportunity To Move Forward'**

Ann Lewis, who served as an adviser to Jackson during his 1988 presidential campaign and as political director for the Democratic National Committee from 1981 to 1984, had a sharply different view of Jackson's remarks, calling them "a historic opportunity to move forward."

She rejected the contention that Jackson posed a "moral equivalency" in his speech and said she viewed the mention of Jews on the S.S. St. Louis, the Japanese and the Haitians as "a historical parallel that was useful and positive."

One reason it was valuable, she said, is that "there's a whole generation of young people who don't know the history of the St. Louis, and he's helping them learn it."

Lewis said that she views the evolution in Jackson's sensitivity to Jewish concerns as part of a process of education.

"Jesse Jackson said to this convention in 1984 that 'God isn't finished with me yet.' He was always able to listen and to learn, qualities which should not be taken for granted in politics.

"These are issues he has been thinking about for years, and they have become real for him in ways that make it possible for him to make them real for others," said Lewis, who also chairs the American Jewish Congress Commission on Women's Equality.

In the view of Steve Gutow, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council, a grass-roots political group, Jackson "really does recognize that there's a lot of repair that has to be done" to make amends with the Jewish community for his earlier remarks and actions, which included embracing Yasir Arafat and calling New York "Hymietown."

In June, in an address to the California Democratic Convention, Jackson called on Jews and blacks to work together, according to Gutow.

But the black civil rights leader "doesn't seem to be willing to denounce people like (Nation of Islam leader Louis) Farrakhan, people who are viscerally anti-Semitic," he said.

"If Jackson continues the way he's been," said Gutow, "he'll certainly ameliorate some of the tension, but he's got to be willing to take that step if he's finally going to put the concerns of the Jewish community to rest."

"Most Jews are very uneasy and wary about Jesse Jackson, and they won't recover from those traumas that easily," said Vorspan of the UAHC.

"But it makes sense to move on," he argued. "We can't spend the rest of our lives, in this great time of crisis, nursing every pain of yesterday."

**NEWS ANALYSIS:**  
**DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM REFLECTS**  
**INCREASED CLOUT OF JEWS IN PARTY**

By Cynthia Mann  
 States News Service

NEW YORK, July 15 (JTA) -- The platform adopted at the Democratic National Convention here this week is a reflection of the increased clout of pro-Israel political organizers within the party and a sure sign of the diminished role of Arab Americans and other champions of Palestinian rights.

A staunchly pro-Israel plank of the platform was adopted Tuesday without debate or dissension after Arab American delegates failed to win enough votes even for a debate on a minority plank at a meeting of the full platform committee in Washington last month.

The official accord over the plank stood in sharp contrast to the acrimonious debates on the Middle East leading up to and during the party's 1988 convention.

In part, it reflected the determination of the Clinton campaign to parade the party's unity despite deeply held differences below the surface. But it was also a testament to the success of mainstream pro-Israel organizers.

The plank states its support for the Middle East peace process and for the "longstanding special relationship with Israel, based on shared values, a mutual commitment to democracy and a strategic alliance that benefits both nations."

It states clearly that "direct negotiations between Israel, her Arab neighbors and Palestinians, with no imposed solutions, is the only way to achieve enduring security for Israel and peace for all the parties in the region."

Arab Americans believe the platform is tilted in Israel's favor in a manner that could threaten the Arab-Israeli peace talks. They also criticize the plank's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, saying its final status should be left to negotiations.

**Arabs Not As Well Organized**

James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute, has called the plank less policy than "puerile pandering."

He said the Arab Americans were out-organized this year by pro-Israel forces and could not muster the clout to combat the Clinton campaign's insistence on the majority language.

Zogby and the Arab Americans were not the only critics of the plank, however. Jerome Segal, president of the Jewish Peace Lobby, which favors Palestinian statehood, this week called the platform "naive and inconsistent."

He said the plank is unfair in its implicit criticism of the Bush administration for applying forceful pressure on the Shamir government to halt Israeli settlement activity in the territories.

"Indeed, it should be said that the United States has helped to deliver a new Israeli government to the peace table," said Segal.

The plank says the United States cannot act as an honest broker in the talks if, "as has been the case with this administration, it encourages one side to believe that it will deliver unilateral concessions from the other."

The platform was not the only indication this week that Arab Americans have lost some influence in the Democratic Party, while Jews have returned to their historic political base.

One need only compare the speakers at the

receptions and briefings sponsored here this week by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the Arab American Institute.

AIPAC drew Sen. Al Gore, Hillary Clinton and Rep. Lee Hamilton, who are, respectively, the expected vice presidential nominee, the presidential nominee's wife and the congressman from Indiana who is said to be in the running for secretary of state in a Clinton administration.

**Brown And Jackson Welcomed**

For their headliners, the Arab Americans netted former California Gov. Jerry Brown and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who may be more charismatic, but have certainly become more marginalized.

Brown won warm applause at the Arab group's late-night reception Monday, when he pointed out the word "justice" was missing from the Democratic platform and said it would be a mainstay of his renegade "platform in progress."

In pro-Arab parlance, justice is seen as rectifying the wrongs Israel has inflicted on the Palestinians.

Jackson, who in 1988 mobilized many of the Arab Democratic activists who returned for the Brown camp, was warmly applauded when he finally appeared at 2 a.m. and delivered his remarks.

Noting the obstacles encountered by African Americans, Jackson told the Arab Americans: "Don't stop fighting to get your share of this party and this country. They may not want you, but you must insist on your birthright."

The former presidential candidate, who has this year found himself used as a punching bag rather than courted as a kingmaker, drew common cause with the Arabs sidelined by the party's pro-Israel platform and the success of Clinton, touted by many Jews as the most pro-Israel of the party's primary contenders.

"It is our lot to fight against the headwind," he said.

While Jackson did not repeat his recent defense of Zionism as a national liberation movement, he steered clear of criticizing the Clinton pro-Israel platform.

(JTA staff writer Larry Yudelson contributed to this report.)

**LEVY LOCKED OUT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS POST**  
 By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 15 (JTA) -- David Levy, foreign minister until Monday, suffered a further embarrassing setback when he failed to be elected by his party to membership in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

To fill its five seats on the prestigious committee, Likud elected Levy's rivals for the party leadership: Ariel Sharon and Moshe Katsav, along with Moshe Nissim, Ze'ev "Benny" Begin and Eliahu Ben-Elissar.

Also disappointed in the secret ballot were former ministers Dan Meridor and Ehud Olmert.

But the blow to Levy was seen, by him and by others, as a continuation of the internal strife that has plagued Likud since the beginning of the year. This atmosphere is believed to have gravely damaged the party's standing in the eyes of the electorate.

"This is more of the same trend," a rueful Levy told newsmen after the vote. Nissim insisted that the vote "be corrected," but Levy said he would not hear of this.

**RABIN'S FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS PREPARING FOR VISIT BY BAKER**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 15 (JTA) -- The new Israeli government has plunged into intensive preparations for the visit here next week of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Baker's visit, announced immediately after the new government took office, is intended to quicken the pace of the peace process and lay the groundwork for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's talks with President Bush in Maine next month.

Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres consulted alone Thursday morning, and later both men conferred with their respective aides to draw up working papers for the meetings with Baker.

According to reports from Washington, Baker is anxious to produce the kind of tangible progress that would accelerate the conclusion of an autonomy accord with the Palestinians and at the same time boost the Republican administration's re-election prospects.

According to the mass-circulation Israeli newspaper Yediot Achronot, elements of a possible "deal" under discussion in Washington include:

- \* An Israeli settlement freeze. There would be discussions on the definition of "security settlements" and the pace of "natural growth" requiring ongoing building in existing settlements.

- \* American assent to furnish at least part of Israel's longstanding request for loan guarantees.

- \* An Israeli commitment to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip at a fixed date early in 1993.

- \* An Israeli commitment to embark on symbolic troop withdrawals from the territories in exchange for Palestinian cessation of intifada violence.

- \* Israeli and Syrian commitments to an initial disengagement of forces on the Golan Heights, in which each side would pull back armored units to a depth of some 10 miles.

- \* Suspension by the Arab states of their secondary and tertiary boycott against Israel.

- \* Talks on the involvement of Saudi clerics in the running of Al-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem, on behalf of the Moslem states.

**Mubarak Seeking Meeting**

The daily Ma'ariv, meanwhile, reported Wednesday that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has proposed through diplomatic channels that he hold a summit with Rabin before the new premier's U.S. visit.

Mubarak, who steadfastly refused to meet with former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, is said to want to demonstrate Egypt's desire to intensify its own involvement in the peace process in the wake of Israel's change of government.

But other Arab leaders are not so eager to accept Rabin's invitation to Jerusalem, extended in a speech Monday to the new Knesset.

In Amman, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu-Jaber was quoted Wednesday as saying that King Hussein would not consider such a visit until Israel agreed to a plan to withdraw from the administered territories.

And in Beirut, Foreign Minister Fares Bouez expressed pique at the fact that Baker had no plans to stop in Lebanon and said he would refuse to meet with the secretary of state abroad.

Baker is scheduled to arrive Sunday in Israel and will make stops in Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan.

**PALESTINIAN STUDENTS FACE IDF IN A TENSE STANDOFF IN NABLUS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 15 (JTA) -- After a long period of relative calm on the West Bank, the army and hundreds of Palestinian students confronted each other in a tense standoff at A-Najah University in the heart of Nablus.

It was the first test of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government in the territories, and some analysts believed it was a deliberate attempt by Palestinian radicals to see how far the new government would go in dealing with the intifada.

A ring of soldiers encircled the university throughout Tuesday night and Wednesday, demanding the right to search students leaving the university.

Most of the students spent the night at the campus, rejecting the army's demand. When the army first cordoned off the campus, students began flocking to the university, bringing the total number of people on campus to about 2,000.

The United States has urged restraint on both sides. "We've been urging people to resolve this peacefully, and we're urging them to exercise maximum restraint," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in Washington.

Secretary of State James Baker is scheduled to arrive in Israel on Sunday for talks with Rabin.

The trouble began Tuesday afternoon, during student elections on campus, as the Israel Defense Force received information that armed Palestinians, wanted by security forces, were inside the campus.

The army said one wanted Palestinian, carrying a home-made pistol, was captured by soldiers just outside the campus.

After blocking off the streets leading to the campus, the army announced that students were free to leave, but that soldiers would have the right to search suspects.

The army stressed that the wanted men they believed were on campus were involved in terror attacks. However, the students refused to leave under these conditions, and the standoff began. They demanded the right to leave with no searches and no army interference.

A number of Palestinian leaders, including Faisal Husseini and Saeb Erekat, both members of the unofficial Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, travelled from Jerusalem to Nablus, in an attempt to mediate.

Maj. Gen. Danny Rothschild, coordinator of civil affairs in the administered territories, stressed that the students were not being locked inside the university. "Anybody who wishes to leave may do so. But he or she must submit to a search for arms and identify himself," he said.

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)

**COST OF LIVING UP SLIGHTLY**

TEL AVIV, July 15 (JTA) -- Israel's cost-of-living index for June, the last full month of the Likud-led government, rose by a low 0.1 percent, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced Wednesday.

The increase was lower than the 0.5 percent rise that was expected.

The inflationary increase during the first six months of 1992 was 4.1 percent, forecasting an annual rate of 11 to 12 percent this year.

**NEW FOREIGN MINISTER OF ITALY  
LIKELY TO IMPROVE TIES TO ISRAEL**

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, July 15 (JTA) -- Italy's new foreign minister, Enzo Scotti, is expected to continue the process of bettering relations between Italy and Israel begun by his predecessor, Gianni De Michelis.

Scotti, 59, who was interior minister in the outgoing government, formally took up his new post last week after Parliament gave a vote of confidence to the new coalition government, led by Prime Minister Giuliano Amato.

"We appreciate him very much," said a source at the Israeli Embassy. "We had excellent experiences with him when he was interior minister."

"He was sensitive to our security preoccupations and handled them with sensibility and efficiency, especially after the terrorist attack in Buenos Aires" that took place in March, he said.

"We have no reason to be worried. On the contrary," he said. "We feel we have a good partner in the foreign minister."

"Generally speaking, it is a good moment for Italian-Israeli relations. We must attribute a lot of this to De Michelis -- but I am sure that Scotti will go on and deepen this process, particularly as Italy will be hosting the next round of Middle East peace talks," he said.

The peace talks are expected to be held in Rome toward the end of August or beginning of September. No date has been set.

Rome was selected as site of the next talks as a compromise between Washington, which the Arabs wanted, and the Middle East, which Israel prefers.

The low-key Scotti, an economist from Naples who was first elected to Parliament in 1968, is a member of the Christian Democratic Party and had been interior minister since 1990.

In previous governments, he served as minister of labor and of culture, among other positions.

His style is expected to be quite different from his predecessor De Michelis, a flamboyant and sometimes controversial figure known for his portly figure, long hair and love of disco-dancing as well as for his foreign policy initiatives.

In an interview with the newspaper La Repubblica, Scotti admitted that he was something of a neophyte as far as foreign policy goes, but said he is a fast learner.

In an interview with the newspaper La Stampa, Scotti's predecessor, De Michelis, had some advice.

"I advise him to maintain continuity," he said. "My foreign policy line was inserted into that of my predecessor, Giulio Andreotti, who is a different type of person from me, just as I am from Scotti. For (Scotti) it will be important to work together with the prime minister."

**KOLLEK BOYCOTTS FRENCH FETE**

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek followed his longstanding tradition Tuesday of boycotting a reception at the French Consulate in honor of Bastille Day, the French independence day.

Kollek explained that he rejected the invitation because the French consul general was holding separate receptions for Jews and Arabs, a situation he found "unacceptable."

No other senior official of the municipality attended the reception.

Kollek said that attending the ceremony would amount to "a blow to the great efforts made daily in Jerusalem to support co-existence on the municipal level, despite political disagreement."

"This is a form of apartheid we cannot accept," he said. In the past, the Americans also held separate receptions on the Fourth of July but it was Secretary of State Alexander Haig who ordered the practice changed, after a long night's discussion with Kollek.

**MITTERRAND SAYS WAR CRIMINALS  
OF VICHY HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRIED**

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, July 14 (JTA) -- French President Francois Mitterrand, in his traditional Bastille Day interview, said those responsible for the deportation of Jews from France during World War II "have already been tried."

Mitterrand told French television that despite the "inhumanity and the barbarism" of the treatment inflicted upon Jewish families during the war, "don't ask this republic to account" for what was perpetrated by the wartime Vichy regime under Marshal Philippe Petain.

Mitterrand refused to publicly condemn the Vichy regime despite his having been asked to do so by 200 intellectuals, in an open letter last month.

The request follows a storm in the media and in frequent discussions here about the role of Vichy France. The heated debate followed a decision not to prosecute Paul Touvier, a former head of the Lyon collaborationist Militia responsible for the deaths of numerous Jewish hostages.

Regarding this, Mitterrand said that "judges' decisions were not always perfect." However, he said, "regarding the law, the republic did what it had to do."

He said that as president, he could not comment on the decision not to try Touvier, but he made it clear that he hoped it would be reversed in the fall by the Supreme Court.

The current French government has its roots in the Resistance and the wartime government-in-exile of Gen. Charles de Gaulle, not Vichy, said Mitterrand, who was a member of the French Resistance.

In 1940, he said, the Vichy regime "was not the republic. We should bring that French state to account. I agree with that, of course," he said.

"But the republic should not be held to account. It did its duty."

Mitterrand said that "for nearly two centuries" the republic has "abided by the principle of equality and citizenship" for Jews.

France's wartime amnesia and the responsibility of the Vichy regime in the Holocaust remains a highly controversial issue here just prior to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the roundup of nearly 13,000 Jews in Paris by the French police.

Mitterrand is to lay a wreath, but not speak, at the memorial marking the location of the Velodrome d'Hiver, the cycling track where 13,152 Jews were herded July 16-17, 1942, before being sent to concentration camps in France.

All those rounded up were handed over to the Nazis and deported to the extermination camps in Eastern Europe.

Only a handful survived.