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**RABIN VISIT RAISES QUESTIONS
ABOUT ROLE OF AMERICAN JEWRY**

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- Yitzhak Rabin returned to Israel last week able to boast that the relationship between the Israeli prime minister and the American president were once again warm and close.

The same could not be said, however, about his relations with the American Jewish community.

In a closed-door session with the top professional and four senior lay leaders of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, he reportedly berated the pro-Israel lobby for fighting losing battles and needlessly straining U.S.-Israeli relations.

And at a public speech before hundreds of Jewish leaders in New York, Rabin left many listeners feeling "blind-sided" by his curtness and his insistence that decisions are made in Jerusalem.

The common denominator was that the new prime minister envisions a greatly changed -- and reduced -- role for American Jews in maintaining the U.S.-Israel relationship.

"It's clearly going to require an adjustment on the part of the American Jewish community," said David Harris, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee.

"The American Jewish community certainly saw itself as an important actor in influencing the ebb and flow of U.S.-Israel relations, nurturing its strength, moving it along, advancing it in consultation both in Washington and Jerusalem," he said.

"Prime Minister Rabin has given a very clear signal he sees things differently."

Observers, both here and in Israel, attribute much of Rabin's attitude to his stint as Israel's ambassador to Washington, where he served as a liaison between the Prime Minister's Office and the White House. And they note as well a general reluctance on his part to delegate authority and heed advisers.

'Sort Of A Second Fiddle'

In Israel, reports of his remarks at the AIPAC meeting were followed by newspaper editorials criticizing his failure to appreciate the role of American Jewry and of AIPAC.

And there are predictions that Rabin's posture will not hold as he learns how Washington works in 1992.

"The prime minister has traditionally had the feeling that you deal only with the head of state, and that Congress and the American Jewish community is sort of a second fiddle," said Stuart Eizenstat, a top aide to Jimmy Carter who is vice chair of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

"Things have markedly changed since the prime minister was in power" the last time, Eizenstat said.

"Congress now has a much greater role in foreign policy than they did in the '70s when Rabin was previously prime minister. At the same time, the American Jewish community has flexed its political muscle to a much greater degree," he said.

American Jews may not want to go back into

the political closet. But some observers see less of a need for American Jewish political activism, now that many of the community's longstanding objectives have been achieved.

They cite the recent resolution of the U.S.-Israeli dispute over loan guarantees, the repeal of the U.N. General Assembly's hateful 1975 resolution on Zionism, the end of Israel's diplomatic isolation around the world and the opening of immigration to hundreds of thousands of Jews in the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia and elsewhere.

"I think Israel will be taking back much of the bilateral relationship from elements of the American Jewish community and the shadlanim, or intermediaries," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

"The fact (that) there's a better relationship, better communication, that the phone lines are open means there's less need for the American Jewish community to protest, complain and intervene," he said.

'Not Interested In What You Think'

But for others, Rabin's tone in his address last week to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations went beyond simply saying that, having solved its largest problems, Israel does not need quite as much help.

Harris of AJCommittee contrasted Rabin's tone with that of his predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir. He noted how Rabin stopped the applause "dead in its tracks," after referring to the housing cuts he had made in the administered territories.

"He said, 'I'm not interested in what you think,' even though the applause was supportive of him," said Harris, paraphrasing the prime minister's remarks. "I don't recall such a moment with Shamir."

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, speculated that Rabin's remarks were in part a reaction to the tendency in recent years for American Jews and organizations to play an intermediary role, carrying messages "from an Israeli government that no longer had any clear communications with the U.S. administration."

Rabin "saw that, rightly so, as an aberration and indication of a sick relationship," he said.

But Siegman agreed with those who accused Rabin of underestimating the political importance of the American Jewish community.

"If he thinks President Bush granted Israel the loan guarantees due entirely to the warmth of Rabin's personality and to the innate importance of that relationship, he's mistaken," the AJCongress leader said.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents, said that, judging from his private meeting with Rabin, too much is being made of some of the prime minister's statements.

"Rabin was outlining his priorities and his approach. This is not to the exclusion of the role of the American Jewish community, nor do I think he will in any way minimize the role," said Hoenlein.

He noted that Rabin spoke about the commonalities of interests between American Jewry and Israel in his opening remarks to the conference. And he suggested that other statements made by Rabin have been misinterpreted.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

REPUBLICAN MESSAGE TO JEWS IS THAT ISRAEL IS SAFER WITH BUSH

By Cynthia Mann
States News Service

HOUSTON, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- If the Republicans had a single message they wanted to communicate to Jews attending the party convention here this week, it was this: that a vote for George Bush in November would guarantee Israel's security while a vote for Democrat Bill Clinton would place it in jeopardy.

The Jewish contingent at the convention may have been small, accounting for just 3 percent of the 2,210 delegates. But its importance to the party was evidenced by the luminaries who showed up at various receptions and briefings hosted by the National Jewish Coalition, a Republican group, and by the non-partisan American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Among the speakers were Vice President Dan Quayle, Republican National Committee Chairman Richard Bond and Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, the convention keynote speaker.

All of them made a point of painting Bush as the consummate foreign policy president and Clinton as untested and inexperienced. They argued that the ever-precarious fate of Israel should not be entrusted to such a novice.

Each pledged Bush would build upon his strong record of accomplishments to strengthen the U.S.-Israeli bond, emphasizing the recent loan guarantee deal agreed to by Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"George Bush has proved he's got the resolve, he's got the experience, and he has the courage to make decisions for our country and for the world. And quite frankly, Bill Clinton does not," Bond said at an AIPAC reception at the Bayou Bend Museum of Americana.

'Awesome Accomplishments'

The Republican chairman referred to Bush's "awesome accomplishments" in presiding over the end of the Cold War, the liberation of Eastern Europe, the termination of the Warsaw Pact and the Persian Gulf War.

And he contrasted that with Clinton's foreign policy experience, which he said was confined to having been a young clerk for the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"Bill Clinton thinks that qualifies him to become commander in chief and leader of the free world," said Bond. "By that reasoning, my years of watching 'M.A.S.H.' reruns makes me qualified to be a field surgeon," he said, referring to the popular television series about a U.S. Army medical unit in Korea.

That argument was selling in some quarters. George Klein, chairman of the National Jewish Coalition, framed it simply when he asked a lunch-time gathering organized by his group to consider how best to protect Israel's security.

He said that in a contest between Bush, with his "international and strategic focus," and Clinton, "who has no idea what it's all about," Bush is "the kind of president we need."

"I don't want to get into abortion and the other issues right now," he made a point of adding.

Klein was referring to the party's conservative "family values" platform, which includes a tough anti-abortion plank and which was ignored by speakers at Jewish events.

David Blumberg, a convention delegate who heads the Republican Party in Baltimore, was not at the luncheon but made the same case as Klein.

"Bush has a wealth of experience in foreign policy, compared to the Democrats, who have no experience at all in dealing with world problems," he said.

"I don't think Clinton would know how to deal with Israel," he continued. "Bush might not always do the right thing, but he has an idea of what needs to be done. I have much more confidence in Bush, not only on Israel but anywhere."

'Stop Bullying Israel'

But an incident during Quayle's speech before a group of AIPAC delegates served to highlight the Republicans' continuing need to repair the serious strain in relations between the Bush administration and the Jewish community over recent U.S. policies toward Israel.

Quayle was ridiculing Clinton's lack of foreign policy experience, saying "there is no comparison at all" between his record and that of the president, when he was interrupted by Rabbi Avi Weiss, a New York activist who is head of the Coalition of Jewish Concerns.

Weiss, who also led a protest against the administration's Israel policies Sunday outside the Astrodome, where the convention is taking place, shouted out to Quayle: "You've been wonderful, but tell your boss to stop bullying Israel."

Weiss was referring to Bush's insistence that Israel stop building settlements in the territories in return for the loan guarantees, a proposition that the new and more flexible Labor Party government has little quarrel with.

Quayle, departing from his prepared text, acknowledged that U.S.-Israel relations "have not always been smooth." But, pointing to the Middle East peace talks scheduled to resume next Monday in Washington, he said that the administration's policies have produced results.

Insiders say Quayle's public emphasis on Israel was calculated to offer a sharp contrast to the speech given to AIPAC by the Democratic vice presidential nominee, Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee, at his party convention last month, which did not mention Israel once.

Weiss finally was ejected by the local police after he continued to interrupt the vice president's speech. But his concerns are not unique.

Resentment Over Loans Delay

While Republican officials are pointing to the recent loan deal as a vindication of the administration's policies, many Jews who voted for Bush in 1988 remain disaffected by the harsh treatment received by Israel and pro-Israel lobbyists.

Rosita Gaon, a Jewish Republican representative-at-large to the Texas legislature, said she is still angry about the conditions imposed on Israel to secure the loan guarantees.

"I don't know if I'm voting for Bush because I don't like (the administration's) attitude toward Israel," she said. "I resent very much that they didn't grant the loans" for so long.

But veteran Jewish philanthropist Max Fisher, a confidant of the president's, exhorted Jewish Republicans to close ranks behind Bush. He said Bush had apologized for the bad feeling he had stirred last September, when he criticized the pro-Israel lobby, and was genuinely sorry.

"He said he made a mistake," Fisher said, "and we have an obligation to deliver that message."

NO U.S.-ISRAELI COORDINATION YET ON POSSIBLE STRIKE AGAINST IRAQ

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- The U.S. military may be planning a military strike against Iraq, but it has not consulted with Israel about the possibility of Iraqi retaliation against the Jewish state, according to a respected military analyst here.

Whether Israel is taken by surprise depends greatly on U.S. willingness to coordinate its plans with Jerusalem, Ze'ev Schiff of the Israeli daily Ha'aretz wrote Tuesday.

Israel is tensely tracking developments in Iraq and its environs, including various concentrations of forces, he wrote. But it cannot achieve a high level of preparedness without cooperation from Washington.

Such cooperation would include the sharing of satellite photos and intelligence on Iraqi movements, as well as the activation of the satellite that was used during the Persian Gulf War to warn Israel of imminent missile attacks from Iraq.

"In the past, the United States claimed -- a few times -- that certain Israeli operations endangered American interests. This time," Schiff wrote, "the situation is reversed: An American action against Iraq" is "liable to endanger Israel."

He observed that there has been coordination with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, where the Americans, in recent weeks, have bolstered Patriot missile batteries.

He pointed out that during the Gulf war, the United States informed Israel of its military plans only minutes before the start of the initial bombings in Baghdad. U.S.-Israeli coordination was heightened only after Iraqi Scud missiles fell on Israel.

This coordination came about only because of Washington's desire to prevent Israel's entry into the war. It included giving Israel important information from the warning satellite and the opening of a "hot line" between Israel's Defense Ministry and the Pentagon.

Today, Schiff observed, the Iraqi military threat is not as great as it was on the eve of the Gulf war. But it is believed Iraq still has about 200 missiles and an unknown quantity of launchers.

The possibility of an Iraqi attack, fueled by the desire for revenge, must be taken into account, he wrote.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CALLS IN LOANS MADE TO JEWISH SETTLERS IN JERUSALEM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- In its latest move against groups trying to expand the Jewish presence in the Old City of Jerusalem, the government has demanded that a settlers group repay more than \$2 million in loans it received from the Housing Ministry under the previous Likud government.

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday asked the Ateret Cohanim yeshiva, responsible for many of the real estate purchases in the Moslem Quarter of the Old City, to pay back the interest-free loans within 10 days.

It said the settlers received the loans four years ago but had failed to comply with a requirement that they present a list of 100 members

who were homeless and therefore entitled to such favorable terms.

At the same time, state prosecutors asked the Jerusalem Magistrates Court for an order to evict Ateret Cohanim settlers from three buildings they occupied in the Moslem Quarter.

The state argued that the buildings were originally seized by the state for security purposes, and their lease to the settlers by the previous government was null and void.

The moves were the latest in a series of measures taken by the government to curtail settlers in the Old City.

Earlier this week, the Housing Ministry announced it would no longer fund guards for settlers, at a cost estimated at thousands of shekels.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said the government should continue to bear responsibility for the protection of Old City settlers, "but not from our budget."

Last week, the government decided to halt funding for Jewish purchase of Arab property in East Jerusalem.

It was also announced that apartments already bought would not be renovated and that prospective tenants would not be allowed to move in.

Ateret Cohanim spokesmen met this week with Justice Minister David Libai to complain of curbs on their actions, which, they said, were based on incomplete information.

Libai said he was not yet familiar with details of the matter. He urged the settlers to present their case to a joint committee of the Finance and Justice ministries set up to study Jewish settlement in the Moslem Quarter.

ETHIOPIAN OLIM STAGE MARCH TO DEMAND PERMANENT HOUSING

By Michele Chabira

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- Some 600 Ethiopian immigrants took to the road Monday to demonstrate their need for permanent housing.

Braving the intense midday heat, the marchers -- many with babies slung across their backs -- began their demonstration in the coastal city of Ashkelon. From there, they vowed to walk all the way to the capital, about 40 miles away.

The olim, who are being housed in hotels in the Ashkelon area, are demanding to be placed in permanent dwellings.

"We have no privacy, and there is no place for us to cook our food," one marcher charged. "It's time we were given a real place to live."

In recent months, hundreds of Ethiopian olim have staged demonstrations, charging that their living conditions are unbearable. This week's march follows a two-week hunger strike by some of the demonstrators.

Late in the afternoon, after the immigrants had walked 15 miles, Immigration and Absorption Minister Yair Tsaban drove to the scene. Following reassurances from the minister, who said he would personally intervene on their behalf, the olim called off their march.

"I won't promise something I cannot deliver," said Tsaban, who asserted that "too many people have promised the immigrants things they have not delivered."

He added that "the problems of absorption cannot be solved overnight. It will take at least three years, and hundreds of millions of shekels, to set things right."

**FEDERAL COURT IN DEMJANJUK APPEAL
CALLS FOR INQUIRY INTO POSSIBLE FRAUD**
By Jamie Kahn
The American Israelite

CINCINNATI, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- A federal appeals court here has taken the unusual step of appointing a special investigator to determine whether the Justice Department "misled" the court during hearings that led to the extradition in 1986 of John Demjanjuk to stand trial in Israel as "Ivan the Terrible."

The court's order, issued Monday, followed a fact-finding hearing in which government counsel admitted that "mistakes were made" when the Justice Department failed to disclose evidence suggesting that a man identified as Ivan Marchenko was in fact the cruel Nazi guard referred to by Jewish prisoners at the Treblinka death camp as "Ivan the Terrible."

In its three-page order, the Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit rejected the Justice Department contention that the court does not have the power to review its decision.

The "bedrock question" for the court, according to Chief Justice Gilbert Merritt, is whether failure by government attorneys to disclose exculpatory information constituted fraud.

To make its determination, the court has appointed Thomas Wiseman Jr., a federal district judge in Nashville, Tenn. as a special master and instructed him to prepare a report after questioning four government lawyers who previously worked on the Demjanjuk case.

The four are Alan Ryan Jr., a former director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which prosecuted the case; Norman Moscowitz and George Parker, attorneys who worked at OSI; and John Horrigan, a former assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

Patty Merkamp Stemler, chief of the appellate section of the Justice Department's criminal division, argued in last week's hearing that the prosecution is not required to prove guilt or innocence but only to show probable cause that the defendant committed the offense.

Evidence From Other Guards

She maintained that during extradition proceedings, the department was not obligated to disclose certain documents -- including excerpts from statements of other prison guards it had obtained from Soviet authorities -- because they did not contain references to "Ivan the Terrible," although they did mention a "Marchenko."

She also said the federal court does not have jurisdiction to review its 1985 judgment, since the case is now in the hands of an Israeli court.

Demjanjuk, a 72-year-old former Cleveland area autoworker, claims that he is innocent and that this is a case of mistaken identity. He is appealing the decision of an Israeli lower court which convicted him of war crimes and sentenced him to death as "Ivan the Terrible" in 1988.

A response by Israel's High Court of Justice is reported to be imminent.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, who has admitted that he lied about his whereabouts during World War II when he applied for American citizenship, has been identified as the sadistic "Ivan" by several survivors of the Treblinka death camp, where 900,000 Jews were murdered.

He has denied having been at any death

camp and said he was a prisoner of war during the time in question.

But documents obtained from the former Soviet Union include testimony about Demjanjuk or a man with a similar name.

A former Treblinka guard, Nicholai Malagon, testified that a man named Ivan Marchenko operated the gas chambers with particular brutality.

But he also recalled that a man named Ivan Demedyuk or Dem'yanuk worked at Treblinka as a cook and was transferred to gas chamber duty.

And another Ukrainian guard, Ignat Danilchenko, told the Soviets that Demjanjuk was so zealous in his participation at the Sobibor death camp that the Germans gave him extra time off.

**ISRAEL AIRLIFTS AID TO ZAGREB,
CONSIDERS SHIPMENT TO SOMALIA**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18 (JTA) -- An Israeli air force Hercules transport plane flew some 15 tons of medical and humanitarian aid to the Croatian capital of Zagreb on Tuesday morning and returned home without having switched off its engines in between flights.

But the plane was unable to continue on to Bosnia-Herzegovina, as the airfield in Sarajevo was closed after a British mercy plane was shot at by snipers while taking off.

Knesset member Yossi Sarid of the Meretz bloc, who had sworn to get to the Bosnian capital after being turned away last week, accompanied the flight but was again unable to complete his personal mission.

The United Nations will now assume responsibility for getting the Israeli relief supplies from Croatia to neighboring Bosnia, which has been wracked by fighting for several months.

Israel is also considering sending humanitarian aid to the eastern African nation of Somalia, where drought and civil war have resulted in widespread famine.

Israel's Foreign Ministry has asked the United Nations to come up with a list of relief items needed there so that it can make preparations for an immediate aid shipment.

This humanitarian effort is somewhat unusual in that Somalia is a member of the Arab League and has been openly hostile to Israel in the past.

But it would not be the first time that the Jewish state provided humanitarian aid to an enemy state. In the past, Israel has sent medicine and other relief supplies to Bangladesh, Cambodia and the Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq. Ethiopia and the Soviet Union were also aid recipients before they re-established relations with Israel.

In addition to the government's activities, Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan has provided millions of dollars' worth of humanitarian aid to famine and natural disaster victims throughout the world without regard to the status of various nations' diplomatic relations with Israel.

In Washington, B'nai B'rith International announced it had launched a fund-raising drive to aid the starving Somalis. Contributions can be made to B'nai B'rith Disaster Relief Fund, 1640 Rhode Island Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

B'nai B'rith is also collecting money for Bosnia, as is the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which has received more than \$100,000 in donations in the last few days.

Donations can be sent to the JDC Bosnia-Herzegovina Mailbox, 711 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.