

# **PALESTINIANS TO ATTEND PEACE TALKS DESPITE DISMAY OVER LOAN GUARANTEES** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Despite Arab disenchantment with the American decision to provide loan guarantees to Israel, Palestinians will take part in next week's round of Middle East peace talks.

Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, told reporters in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Thursday that the Palestinian team would show up on schedule for the talks, which are to resume Monday in Washington.

Proposals to delay participation in the talks as a form of protest against the loan guarantees were dropped after a two-day Arab strategy meeting in Damascus, where it was agreed to attend the next round of negotiations.

News reports quoted Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa as saying that Washington had given some clarifications about the loan guarantees and promised more when Congress begins discussing the terms of the loan package.

Summing up the meeting of Arab foreign ministers and Palestinian leaders in the Syrian capital, Sharaa condemned the loan guarantees and urged the United States to act as "an honest broker" in the peace talks.

Ashrawi said the Palestinian delegation to the talks would leave Friday for Amman to hold last-minute consultations with Nabil Shaath, political adviser to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

Reportedly on the table at the talks will be an Israeli target date of April 1, 1993 for general elections in the administered territories, with interim deadlines of Dec. 1 for agreement on their format and Feb. 1 for an accord on the powers of the administrative council that would be elected.

The shape of the Palestinian self-governing body will be one of the thorniest issues to be discussed by the Israeli and Palestinian teams, which have dramatically different views on the scope of autonomy.

Israel envisages an administrative council during a five-year interim period preceding negotiations on the final status of the territories, while the Palestinians are demanding the establishment of a legislative council.

## **RABIN GOVERNMENT RECONSIDERING DEPORTATION OF 11 PALESTINIANS** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is reviewing with security officials whether to carry out a deportation order issued by the previous Likud government against 11 Palestinians accused of security offenses.

Until the review is completed, the government has suspended all further action to deport the 11, whose appeal of the expulsion order was rejected by the High Court of Justice.

At the same time, Justice Minister David Libai has come out in opposition to the practice of deporting Arab terrorists and intifada activists, triggering sharp criticism from the right wing of the political spectrum.

Libai justified his opposition to deportations

on the grounds of their ineffectiveness in the continued struggle against Arab terrorism.

He said, too, that it runs counter to the policy of the new government in seeking to create a positive climate in relations with the Palestinians.

The justice minister challenged the Palestinian leadership to respond with gestures of good will and bring an end to intifada violence on the eve of the new round of autonomy talks in Washington.

Libai made his statements at a news conference Wednesday unaware that as he was speaking, police had just found the body of a Jewish farmer at Kfar Ya'abetz, in the Sharon Plain, who was brutally murdered by his Arab workers.

But his views received support Thursday from reserve Brig. Gen. Ephraim Sneh, the former head of the Civil Administration in the West Bank who is now a Labor Party member of Knesset.

But Likud Knesset members Eliahu Ben-Elissar and Tzahi Hanegbi strongly criticized the justice minister's proposal Thursday, stating that deportation had proven the most effective penalty against terrorism.

They said suspending deportations would be perceived as an act of weakness and would invite further acts of terrorism.

But even the Likud government had been considering replacing permanent expulsions with temporary deportations lasting a year or two.

Israel's policy of deporting Palestinian security offenders from the administered territories has been condemned as inhumane by the U.S. government and international human rights organizations.

The deportation order against the 11 Palestinians, originally issued in January, was the subject of a harsh condemnation by the U.N. Security Council, which the United States supported.

The Palestinians ordered deported were accused of incitement to violence, leading to the murder of Jewish settlers by Arab gunmen in the administered territories.

## **POLICE KNOW NAMES OF ARABS WHO MURDERED JEWISH FARMER** By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Police say they know the names of two West Bank Arabs who they believe murdered a 55-year-old tomato farmer in the Sharon Plain on Wednesday.

But the two have so far eluded capture.

Ground and helicopter searches have until now failed to locate two residents of Bala village, near Tulkarm, who are suspected of beating and strangulating Bechor Hajaj, a father of five.

Hajaj's body was found Wednesday near his hothouse in Kfar Ya'abetz, in the Tel Mond region of the Sharon Plain. Searchers combed the Tel Mond and nearby Tulkarm areas looking for traces of the murderers and of the victim's Peugeot pickup truck in which they escaped.

It is now known there were two assailants rather than the three originally believed to have carried out the crime.

The number was given by an Arab labor contractor, also a resident of the Tulkarm area,

who told police Hajjaj had requested three laborers to help him with tomato picking and sorting. However, only two showed up.

The farmer had requested the extra hands because three regulars had failed to come to work.

The names of the temporary workers were registered at an Israel Defense Force checkpoint as the Arab contractor drove them to their workplace by truck.

Hajjaj was buried Thursday in the Ein Vered cemetery near his home village. He was the oldest of eight brothers and sisters. His parents, both still living, came to Israel from Libya in 1949. He is survived by three daughters and two sons, ages 24 to 36.

A younger brother of the slain farmer is Brig. Gen. Haggai Shalom, chief of the IDF Quartermaster Branch.

The murder was the ninth of a Jewish employer by an Arab worker in the past three years.

Building contractor Zalman Schlein of Gan Yavneh was murdered by two of his workers, residents of the Gaza Strip, on July 15, 1989. A restaurant owner in Ein Kerem, near Jerusalem, Avraham Shalom, was killed by his cook, a resident of Ramallah, on May 22, 1990.

Three Jewish workers, Yehuda Hakmaz, Moshe Ayoun and Iris Asraf, were slain Dec. 15, 1990, by an Arab worker at an aluminum plant in Jaffa. In June of last year, a Jordan Valley farmer, Avi Osher, of Moshav Bekaot, was killed by Arab workers in his date grove.

Two months ago, Moshe Bino and Amikam Salzman, were murdered at their packing plant in Gaza by Moslem fundamentalists.

# JEWISH REPUBLICANS EYEING KEMP AS DARLING CANDIDATE FOR 1996

By Cynthia Mann  
States News Service

HOUSTON, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp dazzled a reception given in his honor by Jewish Republicans this week with a few minutes of good-humored, off-the-cuff remarks that displayed his knowledge of and connection to the Jewish community.

He talked about a 1972 trip to Israel during which he learned about Zionism from an American who had made aliyah, his visit to the sites of concentration camps in Poland, and the liberal democratic values he had been taught by Jewish activists over the years.

The charismatic Cabinet secretary, who has clashed repeatedly with President Bush over urban and economic policy, and who looks to be the favorite of the party's conservative camp for a run in 1996, also recounted his longtime work for the freedom of Jews to emigrate from the former Soviet Union.

And, just for good measure, he threw in a sprinkling of Jewish and Yiddish words and the fact that his first girlfriend was the daughter of a rabbi, all to the delight of the hundreds at the gathering, which was sponsored by local Jewish Republicans and the National Jewish Coalition, a Republican group.

But above all, he stressed his deep commitment to the State of Israel. Holding up a button sported by most of the Jewish delegates at the convention, he said, "I don't need to wear this. I'm a pro-Israel Republican down to the marrow

of my bones. You don't have to be Jewish to love Israel," he said.

Fred Zeidman, one of the local Jewish Republican sponsors of the event, said his phone was ringing off the hook Wednesday night with people who had heard Kemp speak for the first time and were captivated by him, including a healthy sprinkling of Democrats.

"They were smitten" and said they would vote for Jack Kemp in 1996, he said.

Kemp's appeal to Jews, said Zeidman, springs from his "absolute, unequivocal and unswerving support for Jews, Israel and for civil rights. And he's down to earth, a populist."

For Matthew Brooks, director of the National Jewish Coalition and an unabashed Kemp fan, Kemp is the bridge between Jews and the Republican Party.

"Jack Kemp puts a compassionate face on conservatism," he said. "He shares the same social concerns as the Jewish community and applies Republican solutions."

Brooks, who introduced Kemp as his "political rabbi," said the housing secretary's close ties to the Jewish community would give him a "tremendous springboard constituency in 1996."

# JEWISH DELEGATES WELCOME SPEECH ON AIDS BY MAX FISHER'S DAUGHTER

By Cynthia Mann  
States News Service

HOUSTON, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Jewish Republicans here were abuzz about the speech delivered Wednesday night by AIDS activist Mary Fisher, with some calling it the best speech of the entire convention.

Fisher, who heads the Family Aids Foundation, is the daughter of Max Fisher, the prominent Jewish philanthropist and presidential confidant who is honorary chairman of both the Bush-Quayle campaign and of the National Jewish Coalition, a Republican group.

Fisher, a mother of two young children who was infected with the virus that causes AIDS by her former husband, gave an eloquent speech that she said was intended to "lift the shroud of silence" on AIDS within the Republican Party.

She called on the party faithful to recognize that "AIDS is not a political creature," but an ever-present threat to be combatted with courage and compassion and sound policy.

"It was very moving," said Stanley Baum, a Jewish delegate from Georgia. "She's a living testament that AIDS can happen to anyone, notwithstanding the stereotypes."

Baum said that it was an important message to deliver not just to the party but to the nation.

"She was the best," said Diane Bressler, a Republican from New York. "She was asking Republicans to be compassionate and include people rather than exclude them."

In contrast to the AIDS activists featured at the Democratic convention last month, Fisher praised the leadership of President Bush in the war against the deadly disease.

But she implicitly criticized the party for its emphasis on family values, at the expense of openness and honesty in sex education, and for its harsh condemnation of homosexuals.

"We do the president's cause no good if we praise the American family but ignore a virus that destroys it," she said. "We cannot love justice and ignore prejudice, love our children and fear to teach them."

## ISRAELIS WARNED NOT TO TRAVEL TO KASHMIR IN NORTHERN INDIA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- Israelis have been warned not to travel to Kashmir out of concern they may become targets of a terrorist group operating in the restive region of northern India.

Yigal Carmon, the prime minister's adviser on terrorism, issued the advisory following reports that a Moslem extremist group had threatened to arrest any Israelis attempting to enter the region because of alleged anti-terrorist cooperation between Israel's Mossad intelligence agency and the Indian government.

The advisory was said to have been issued with the full agreement of the Indian government, which established relations with Israel in January.

Kashmir is one of several mountainous Asian destinations that are popular with Israelis who have just completed their army service and are looking for a bit of adventure before pursuing work or study.

A year ago, six Israeli backpackers were kidnapped from a houseboat on a Kashmiri lake. They managed to get away from the kidnappers in a fight in which one of the Israelis, Erez Kahane, 22, of Ra'anana was killed.

The Israelis, most of whom had elite army experience, managed to seize their assailants' weapons, killing two of the kidnappers in their escape.

## NEW ZEALAND CHURCH REJECTS LITURGY CHANGE URGED BY JEWS

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- New Zealand Jews are dismayed at the failure of the Anglican Synod to restore the words "Zion" and "Israel" to psalms included in the prayerbook of the country's largest church denomination.

The synod declined at its recent annual meeting to reverse the deletions made four years ago. The ruling was termed "a major step backward in Jewish-Christian relations" by the president of the New Zealand Jewish Council.

Wendy Ross of the council said the synod vote represented "actual hostility" toward the Jews. The decision was made despite the almost unanimous opposition by Maori churchgoers, although their community had been identified as the intended beneficiaries of the changes.

The Anglican Church of New Zealand adopted the revised text in 1988 in an attempt to "modernize" Christianity. The word "Zion" was deleted in 33 places and the word "Israel" in 21.

The changes were made at the suggestion of the Rev. Brian Carrell.

The Jews lobbied over the past four years for restoration of the full text.

Churchgoers urging restoration of the deleted words included the Anglican bishop of Auckland, the Rt. Rev. Bruce Gilbert, who told the synod it had a duty to put right "the serious offense" and "unnecessary hurt" to the Jewish community.

In New York, an expert on Jewish-Christian relations told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency the decision reflected views deeply influenced by church perspectives on the Israel-Arab dispute.

"It is an indication of how an uncritical political identification with the Palestinian cause has spilled over to the liturgical life of the

church, to the degree of editing their own traditional prayers to remove any historic identification of the Jewish people with the land of Israel," said Judith Banki, associate national director of interreligious affairs at the American Jewish Committee.

But there was a positive development in Australia. Australian Jewish leaders applauded this week's decision by the Anglican Synod of Australia to set up a working group that will develop guidelines on promoting understanding of Jews and Judaism.

Similar working groups were established by two other major Australian churches recently.

(JTA staff writer Malka Rabinowitz contributed to this report.)

## AUSTRALIAN NEO-NAZI FOUND GUILTY OF ATTACKING JEWISH STUDENT IN PARK

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, Aug. 20 (JTA) -- A Sydney magistrate has found a supporter of David Palmer, the self-appointed "fuhrer of Australia," guilty of assaulting a Jewish student who had objected to a pro-Nazi meeting taking place here.

The assault took place after the 21-year-old student, whose name was suppressed by the court, interrupted a speech by Palmer by saying: "Australians died so that the Nazi flag would not be raised in this country. How dare you raise it now!"

Simon Lain, a 43-year-old invalid pensioner with a long involvement with neo-Nazi organizations, called the student a "dirty Jew boy" and tried to grab the student's camera. During the assault, the student was kicked in the upper groin.

Lain was fined the equivalent of \$365 for the criminal assault.

The incident took place in Sydney's Domain, a public park between the New South Wales Art Gallery and the State Parliament House. The park is modeled on London's Hyde Park Corner, which on Sunday afternoons houses an open forum for any member of the public who wishes to speak on any subject.

Palmer included denials of the Holocaust in his speech.

He and Robert Leys, a former taxi driver who was stripped of his license for refusing to accept Australian Aborigines as passengers, testified on behalf of Lain in court. They alleged that it was "a typical tactic" of people of "Jewish extraction" to attack people who were defending Hitler publicly.

Lain and his supporters claimed that the student, of slight build and standing 5 feet 6 inches, had attacked the burly Lain. But the magistrate noted that Lain had run quickly from the scene of the assault, adding to the belief that he had been conscious of his guilt.

Robert Klarnet, public affairs director for the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "My community is gratified that Lain was found guilty of what was in fact a blatant, racially based physical assault."

"The incident highlighted the highly provocative and offensive nature of this particular cell of Nazis, who parade in full Nazi uniform and harangue audiences from a platform flanked by swastika flags. The community is examining all means available to it to have this type of grossly offensive behavior stopped."

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**

**EVANGELICALS PRESENT PARADOX FOR JEWS BY SUPPORTING ISRAEL AND MISSIONIZING**  
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Pat Boone, wearing a Western-stitched sports jacket and an engaging smile on his still-boyish face, is looking into the television camera and quoting Scripture to convince telenovela viewers to donate money to the United Jewish Appeal's Operation Exodus drive.

"We need godly men and women to say, 'Yes, I am my brother's keeper,'" he exhorts. "Send in your sacrificial gift of \$100 or \$600 or whatever you can afford."

And his viewers have responded.

In addition to the \$100,000 that Pat Robertson donated last year, evangelical Christians have contributed more than \$100,000 to Operation Exodus through the telenovela, which is called "While the Door Is Still Open." It has run on dozens of Christian cable stations since it debuted in the beginning of 1992.

Viewers' average gift is \$90, says the telenovela's producer, an Orthodox rabbi named Yechiel Eckstein, three times more than the typical average gift brought in by telenovelas.

Eckstein is executive director of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, an organization he created in 1983 to help corral support for Jewish issues in evangelical circles and encourage understanding between the two faith communities.

But not everyone in the Jewish community waxes enthusiastic about working closely with evangelicals. According to some interreligious affairs professionals and observers, evangelicals' mission to convert people to belief in Jesus must be weighed carefully against the value of their support for Israel.

**Boone Embodies Paradox**

Boone himself seems to embody the paradox presented by the evangelicals' relationship to the Jewish community: The man hired by the Israeli government to be its tourism ambassador to born-again Christians also supports Hebrew-Christian groups like Jews for Jesus.

Still, the evangelical community's potential benefit to the Jewish community is not easily dismissed.

Thirty-eight percent of Americans -- an estimated 68 million people -- call themselves "born-again," or evangelical Christians, according to the Princeton Religion Research Center.

And to Eckstein, these Christians are a well of support for Israel just waiting to be tapped by the Jewish community. They feel called upon to be a blessing to the Jewish community," he says.

But Jews have an unnuanced view of evangelicals, says Eckstein. They tend to equate the entire community with the right-wing, most vocal segment, which he says accounts for no more than one-third of the whole.

The more moderate center, which accounts for about two-thirds of the movement, is growing in importance, Eckstein says.

"And by and large, the Jewish community is not working with them," he says. "Fear, suspicion and an inability to talk to them is ubiquitous among Jewish leadership."

Rabbi Leon Klenicki, director of interreligious affairs at the Anti-Defamation League, agrees that it would be a mistake for Jewish organizations to ignore evangelicals.

"We haven't paid enough attention to the evangelical movement. Working with them allows us to eliminate anti-Jewish feeling," said Klenicki.

The cornerstone of evangelicals' commitment to Jews is a verse in Genesis, where God tells Abraham, "I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you." They see their support of Israel as cooperation with God in the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

But, say Jewish observers, some evangelicals consider Jews "religiously incomplete" and in need of conversion.

"It's dangerous to take the support of Israel and not look at the other side of the coin," says Rabbi A. James Rudin, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee. "They may be supportive of Israel, but they have another equally important agenda: conversion."

**Source Of Tourist Dollars**

But besides their political support for Israel, evangelicals will remain attractive to Jews as long as they are a source of tourist dollars spent in Israel. And the Israeli government is working hard to make the most of their interest in the Holy Land.

The Government Tourist Office hired Boone last year to be its "official ambassador" to the born-again community.

And in October, El Al will begin running flights between Dallas -- the heart of the Bible Belt -- and Tel Aviv, three times a week, expressly to accommodate evangelical tourists.

Roughly 55 percent of Israel's visitors from the United States are Christian, according to Rafael Farber, Israel's commissioner of tourism in North America.

Eighty percent of them are Protestant -- mostly evangelicals, rather than liberal Protestants -- and 20 percent are Catholic, Farber says.

Forty percent of his \$2 million annual marketing budget targets Christians through television commercials and Christian magazine ads.

"Our goal is to bring half a million Americans to Israel a year within two years. And statistically, our people are very few. We have many more Christians. In terms of marketing, we can't put our heads in the sand," says Farber.

Rabbi Bentzion Kravitz, director of Jews for Judaism, an anti-missionary group, believes that Israel's outreach to evangelicals is misplaced because of their proselytizing among Jews here and in Israel.

**'Not Trying To Be Deceptive'**

Kravitz estimates that 150,000 adult Jews have converted to Christianity as a conscious decision, rather than passively through intermarriage, and attributes most of the conversions to the efforts of Christian evangelists.

Boone is a poor choice of a spokesman on behalf of Israel, Kravitz says, because he has been supportive of the Hebrew Christians and "Messianic Jews" who target Jews for conversion.

Boone, who wears a Star of David and "chai" around his neck, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that understands "why rabbis and others are confused or suspicious."

But he sees no contradiction between his support of Israel and his acknowledged support of Hebrew-Christian groups. The groups "are not trying to be deceptive," he said. "It is simply part of their identity" to maintain that they are Jewish while they follow the teachings of Christianity.