

**75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR**
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1992**
**VOL. 70, NO. 195**

## RABIN MAY SHIFT OUTSPOKEN ALONI TO A NEW POST TO DEFUSE TENSIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Faced by angry complaints from Israel's religious parties, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin may try to shift Shulamit Aloni from the Education Ministry to a less controversial Cabinet slot.

The Labor-affiliated newspaper Davar reported Tuesday that Rabin was considering the change in an attempt to stave off further tensions with one of his two coalition partners, the Sephardic Orthodox Shas party, and with possible Orthodox Cabinet allies in the future.

Aloni, whose recent remarks on religion from a secularist perspective stirred Shas' ire, heads Rabin's other partner, the left-wing Meretz bloc.

Rabin, meanwhile, is holding meetings with opposition parties in an attempt to broaden the base of his government. If Shas quits the Cabinet, he would still enjoy a 61-vote parliamentary majority, but only with the tacit support of the five Knesset members representing Arab parties.

Rabin has repeatedly made it clear he wants to lead the peace process on the basis of a solid Jewish majority, an aim that makes the position of Shas a pivotal one in the present coalition.

The prime minister met Tuesday with the leader of the right-wing Tsomet party, which he originally wanted to include in his government. But Rafael Eitan said later that they did not discuss prospects for joining the coalition.

"The issue did not come up," he said, adding cryptically: "We did not go into any details."

A similarly vague formulation came following a meeting Wednesday between Rabin and leaders of the United Torah Judaism bloc, an Ashkenazic Orthodox party that is considered another possible coalition partner.

"We talked about ideological matters," said Knesset member Avraham Ravitz. "On these we found little disagreement."

That was taken as a backhanded reference to the prime minister's displeasure over the controversial actions of his education minister.

### Meretz Ministers Low-Key

Rabin told Meretz leaders last Friday that he foresaw crisis and instability in the coalition in the weeks ahead. He said he was uncertain how Shas would vote in a series of looming motions of non-confidence introduced by opposition parties on state-and-religion issues.

The prime minister met privately last week with the spiritual leader of Shas, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, at the rabbi's Jerusalem home.

The meeting apparently was less than reassuring for Rabin. It came in the wake of an accusation by the National Religious Party that Aloni, during a recent trip to Germany, held official meetings on the Sabbath and ate in non-kosher restaurants.

That complaint came hard on the heels of an episode last month in which Aloni clashed with Shas and other religious parties over statements on creation versus evolution and over the text of a memorial prayer for the dead.

After that incident, Aloni wrote a letter of

apology to Yosef and was called on the carpet by Rabin, who ordered her to desist from further controversial statements.

Aloni is still abroad, and Rabin's meeting with the Meretz leadership last Friday was held in her absence.

The Meretz leaders were reportedly low-key in their reaction to the "accusation" made by the NRP against their party leader.

But several of the leading newspaper commentators have come down heavily on Rabin for summoning the Meretz leaders to discuss the NRP charges in the first place.

Top Ha'aretz columnists Yoel Markus and Uzi Benziman both faulted Rabin for bending over backward to placate ultra-Orthodox sensitivities beyond the limits established in political "status quo" arrangements with the religious sector.

Markus wrote Tuesday that Rabin may find himself in hot water when an interview he gave soon appears in Penthouse.

He predicted the premier will be hard put to explain to the haredi rabbis the juxtaposition of himself, "albeit fully clothed," and some of the more lascivious photography in the American magazine.

### Seeking To Embarrass Shas

Political observers say the NRP is seeking to deliberately embarrass Shas, which is under heavy pressure from its rank and file to quit the coalition unless Aloni is removed from her post.

Some of the media commentary links the leak of Aloni's itinerary in Germany to her director-general at the Education Ministry. Ze'evun Or-Lev is a close friend of the former education minister, Ze'evun Hammer of the NRP.

The meetings of the prime minister with Tsomet and United Torah were formally billed as briefing sessions, similar to those he is conducting with both coalition and opposition parties on economic policy and on the progress of the Middle East peace talks.

But political analysts are unanimous in assessing that the premier is in effect making an effort, before the opening of the new Knesset session in less than two weeks, to defuse the Aloni time bomb.

His success in doing so would greatly contribute to the prospects of United Torah joining up. But it is hard to see Meretz swallowing this slight unless Rabin finds a way of generously compensating the party, by the allocation of a fourth Cabinet post, for example.

As Davar put it Tuesday, "This is the second round of Rabin's coalition negotiations."

### **RABIN WILL NOT REQUEST CLEMENCY FOR POLLARD TILL AFTER ELECTION**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has no immediate plans to ask President Bush to show clemency toward Jonathan Jay Pollard, now that the convicted American spy for Israel has apparently exhausted his possible legal recourses.

According to sources in Jerusalem, Rabin does not want to make a request now, in advance of the U.S. presidential election, for fear of

appearing to interfere in the internal politics of the United States.

But once the Nov. 3 election is over, an Israeli appeal for mercy can be expected, the sources said.

Several American Jewish organizations have urged President Bush to commute Pollard's life sentence, most recently the Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, which adopted a resolution to that effect Tuesday night.

The appeals for clemency have taken on a new sense of urgency since the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to review a lower court decision rejecting Pollard's appeal of his sentence.

Following the decision Tuesday, Pollard's attorney, Theodore Olson, said he would file a written request for clemency with the Bush administration before the Nov. 3 election.

# **TERRORISTS NABBED BY THE IDF WERE HEADED TO MASSACRE JEWS** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Three terrorists heading south across the Lebanese frontier "to kill as many Jews as possible" gave themselves up to an Israeli army patrol about 500 yards from the border fence.

The heavily armed marauders, believed to be members of Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, surrendered early Tuesday morning inside the Israeli-controlled security zone in southern Lebanon.

They were spotted by Israel Defense Force troops on a routine predawn patrol in the foothills of Har Dov and pinned to the ground by fire while the unit summoned reinforcements.

Witnessing the arrival of Israeli forces supported by helicopters and lighted flares, the infiltrators took off their white vests and waved them above the rocks behind which they were sheltering to signal their surrender.

They said they were headed for an Israeli settlement to kill as many people as they could. They were carrying rifles and hand grenades, as well as battle pouches with reserve ammunition, when apprehended in the eastern sector of the security zone, the IDF spokesman said.

There were no Israeli casualties.

Kibbutzim in the region were placed on full alert after the terrorists were spotted. The alarm was lifted at about 7 a.m.

# **GAZA PALESTINIAN KILLED BY IDF** By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- A young Palestinian was shot to death by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, although violence, running high for several days, appeared to have abated in much of the administered territories.

The youth, whose age was given as 16, was killed in a violent exchange between rioters and troops in Khan Yunis.

The riot erupted in the aftermath of an exchange of fire in the town the night before in which an armed Palestinian was killed and an Israel Defense Force soldier seriously wounded.

Despite a curfew imposed by the army, young men took to the streets and pelted troops with stones and bottles.

The injured soldier was reported in serious condition later in the week in the hospital in Beersheba.

# **PEROT SKEWERED IN COMIC STRIP OVER DAUGHTER'S JEWISH FIANCE** By Kimberly C. Moore States News Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Garry Trudeau, the often-controversial author of the political comic strip Doonesbury, used his sarcastic pen this week to chide presidential candidate Ross Perot for allegedly trying to prevent his daughter Nancy from marrying a Jewish man.

In Wednesday's strip, which appeared in The Washington Post, New York Newsday and other papers across the country, the character of radio talk show host Mark Slackmeyer questions Perot, saying many of the billionaire's supporters are "distressed by growing evidence of your bigotry."

"Why did you try to keep your daughter from marrying a Jew, reportedly saying, 'You need to have your children look like you,' " the fictional character asks Perot. "I mean, I find that incredible," he says.

The candidate responds in the comic strip: "Why? Because of my ears? THAT'S low! Are you a Jew?"

The Slackmeyer character quips: "Must be. I'm in the media."

Thursday's strip continues with the same theme and has Perot dropping out of the race and then re-entering it again after he is questioned about his views on Jewish issues.

Barb Thompson, a spokeswoman for Universal Syndicate, which distributes Doonesbury, said Trudeau does not give interviews. But she said he based this week's strip on an article in the Oct. 19 issue of The New Republic magazine.

# **Need To Have Children 'Look Like You'**

The article, written by Sydney Blumenthal, quotes anonymous sources who recalled conversations with Perot. One source said Perot asked, "You don't think that I'd let my daughter marry a Jew?"

A second source is quoted by Blumenthal as saying, "He wasn't embarrassed about it. He'd say, 'You need to have your children look like you.' "

According to several recent articles, one of which appeared in Vanity Fair magazine, Nancy Perot's former fiance is an associate professor of English at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

The professor, whose name the university would not release, is on a leave of absence and could not be reached for comment.

April Cotton, a spokeswoman for the Perot campaign, would not comment on the comic strip, but did say that she gave a copy of the cartoon to the candidate.

A secretary in Perot's office confirmed that he did have a copy of the Doonesbury strip.

Jewish organizational leaders were hesitant to comment on the issue. But a spokeswoman for one major group, who asked not to be identified, pointed out that it is "not necessarily bad to want your daughter to marry someone of your own faith."

A Jewish Republican activist, who also asked not to be identified, said he had to consider the venue and not give much credit to something articulated on the funny pages.

"There are documented, factual things that can be pointed to that have the Jewish community on guard about Perot," the activist said.

Blumenthal said he is happy to see his story being used in Doonesbury. "Why not?" he said.

## GERMANY GOT 100,000 ASYLUM REQUESTS FROM JEWS FROM FORMER SOVIET UNION

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Some 100,000 Jews from the republics of the former Soviet Union have applied for German asylum in the past two years and between 7,000 and 10,000 have already arrived here, according to the Interior Ministry.

The vice minister of the interior, Eduard Lintner, made the comment during a debate last Friday in the Bundestag, initiated by Bundnis 90, a group of former East German dissidents.

Leaders of that group, as well as members of the successor group to the East German Communist Party, demanded free entry for any Jew who wishes to immigrate to Germany.

Lintner reported that between 7,000 and 10,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union have already arrived in Germany within the past two years and 23,000 have received positive responses to their visa applications.

If these numbers are correct, the Jewish community in Germany will increase substantially in a year or so.

According to recent statistics, nearly 40,000 Jews live in Germany.

Members of Parliament from all major parties -- the Christian Democratic Union, the Social Democratic Party and the Free Democratic Party -- have voiced support for the government's generosity in handling applications from Soviet Jews.

But they mentioned that their welcome in Israel as full citizens should also be taken into account.

Last month, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, on a visit to Berlin, said Jerusalem is trying to get German assistance to create jobs in Israel, thereby making the country more attractive to Jews from the former USSR.

But Rabin insisted he believes it is anyone's right to choose independently where to settle down.

## NAZI BOOKS SELLING WELL IN ROME

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- The Italian capital is experiencing a boom in sales of books dealing with Nazism, according to a report in a leading Rome newspaper.

Best-sellers include Adolf Hitler's autobiography, "Mein Kampf," and "Fatherland," a recently published novel imagining a world in which the Nazis won World War II.

Many of the people buying these books are Skinheads, *Il Messaggero* reports.

There has been an increased demand for such books, according to a salesperson quoted in the newspaper.

"Fatherland" is selling well, the clerk said. "Lots of people are asking for it, and many of these are those boys, those with the shaven heads, who also want biographies of Hitler and books about the war."

The greatest demand has been for "Mein Kampf."

"Up until a little while ago, demand for this book was zero," a salesperson at a big downtown bookstore was quoted as saying.

"Maybe it's a passing fashion, because there is much talk these days about Nazism," the clerk said. "Ordinary people are buying histories to become informed," but "those youths are also coming in asking for 'Mein Kampf.'"

## ANNIVERSARY OF SYNAGOGUE ATTACK MARKED IN ROME AMID NEW CONCERN

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Rome's Jewish community last week marked with renewed concern the 10th anniversary of an attack by Arab terrorists on the city's main synagogue, in which a toddler was killed and 40 people wounded.

Anti-Semitic acts are still taking place, now coming from the right wing rather than Arab terrorists, Jewish leaders noted.

"We are witnessing a new xenophobic and anti-Semitic wave in Germany and in Europe," Sergio Frassinetti, president of the Rome Jewish community, told a memorial ceremony in the synagogue, held the night of Oct. 8.

Frassinetti said that "all society and all authorities must be concerned." Racial attacks "could take place anywhere," he said.

The ceremony, at which the Jewish community gave thanks to local hospital personnel who cared for the wounded following the attack, was attended by local Jewish leaders and other officials, including Israeli Ambassador Avi Pazner.

On Oct. 9, 1982, Palestinian terrorists hurled hand grenades at the crowd of Jews leaving the Great Synagogue following holiday services. Two-year-old Stefano Tache was killed in the attack.

## JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL HELD IN MADRID ON 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXPULSION

By Judith Lew

MADRID, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- The Jewish Film Festival, a tradition begun in 1981 in San Francisco and mounted in Moscow in 1990, was being held this week in Madrid to coincide with commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain.

Janis Plotkin and Deborah Kaufman, the festival's directors, brought 24 films from nine different countries, most made by independent filmmakers and never been screened in Spain.

Films featured on the opening day last Saturday were an Argentine-West German co-production, "La Amiga" by Jeanine Meerapfel; the German "Fear Not, Jacob" from Romanian director Radu Gabrea; and "Joshua Then and Now" from Canadian director Ted Kotcheff, based on the Mordechai Richler story.

All three showings were sold out.

During the weeklong festival, directors and producers of the films were available to answer questions from the audience. Plotkin said these films could raise Spaniards' level of knowledge about Jews and Judaism and erase many stereotypes Spaniards hold about Jews.

"We want to bring a message of tolerance to Spain," said Plotkin, and "help people understand there is not one way to define who Jews are."

"This is important in this country, where for centuries there were no Jews and all that remained were classical references."

One-third of the films concentrate on Spain and Sephardic culture, history and life today. These include "El Santo Oficio" about the Spanish Inquisition, from Mexican Arturo Ripstein, and "The House on Chelouche Street" by Israeli-French filmmaker Moshe Mizrahi.

Another film being screened is Judy Montell's "Forever Activists: Stories from the Abraham Lincoln Brigade," which is about those who fought in the Spanish Civil War against the fascist forces of Francisco Franco.

## JEWS ARE AMONG THE WINNERS OF THIS YEAR'S NOBEL PRIZES

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Professor Rudolph Marcus of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena has been named the 1992 Nobel Prize winner in chemistry.

The Canadian-born Marcus was apparently attending a meeting in Toronto and could not be immediately reached by his office. However, he was lauded by colleagues as a "brilliant theorist and a very nice man."

Professor Samuel Epstein, a colleague and friend for four decades, described Marcus as "very Jewish," though more in the cultural than religious sense.

Irving Bengelsdorf, a science writer and expert on Nobel laureates, said he believes another of this year's American Nobel Prize winners, Edmond Fischer in medicine, is also Jewish.

The Shanghai-born, University of Washington scientist was recognized with his colleague Edwin Krebs for discoveries leading to understanding of how the body regulates cellular activity.

In recognizing the 69-year-old Marcus on Wednesday for the \$1.2 million chemistry prize, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences cited his "contributions to the theory of electron transfer reactions in chemical systems."

It praised Marcus for finding "simple mathematical expressions for how the energy of a molecular system is affected by changes in the structure of reacting molecules and their nearest neighbors."

Marcus was awarded Israel's prestigious Wolf Prize two years ago and is widely known in the Israeli scientific community, said Professor Harry Gray, another colleague. "I think the Israelis saw what was coming by giving him the Wolf Prize," he said.

Gray said Marcus' research is likely to lead to new developments in energy storage and conversion, particularly in building more advanced fuel cells and solar energy devices.

## SECOND ISRAELI BODY RETRIEVED FROM SITE OF DUTCH EL AL CRASH

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- The body of a second Israeli has been recovered at the site of the crash of an El Al cargo jet here.

The remains of flight engineer Gedalyah Sofer, 61, will be flown home for burial. An El Al team is continuing to search for the bodies of captain Yitzhak Fuchs and co-pilot Arnon Ohad, who were killed when the Boeing 707 smashed into two Amsterdam apartment houses on Oct. 4.

The body of the plane's sole passenger, Anat Levy Salomon, wife of an El Al security official in Amsterdam, is also being flown home for burial.

Fifty-two bodies had been recovered at the site, of whom 26 were identified, at the time of this report. Another 38 persons have been reported missing, 28 of them at or very near the site of the disaster.

Meanwhile, fragments of about 40 percent of the aircraft have been found.

The municipality of Amsterdam and housing groups have offered new accommodations to 230 families and single persons made homeless by the crash. Each household will also receive \$10,000 and each single person \$6,000 for new furniture.

## LASER BRIT IS PERFORMED ON YOUTH TO PREVENT DANGER FROM BLEEDING

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- A 14-year-old immigrant from the former Soviet Union with a rare blood disease recently underwent a brit milah by laser surgery. It is believed to be the first such ritual circumcision performed anywhere.

The procedure was performed after lengthy consultations between doctors and rabbis, and was designed to avoid the risk of hemorrhaging.

Alexander Wolk, the patient, spent only 45 minutes in the operating theater and was discharged from the hospital within a day.

The brit was performed at Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

"I fired the laser beam with minute accuracy," Dr. Shlomo Wallfish told reporters this week. "It caused hardly any bleeding but caused enough to satisfy the halachic requirement." Wolk himself said he felt hardly any pain when he emerged from the anaesthetic.

Wallfish heads the colo-rectal surgery department at Soroka, the most advanced such unit in Israel in the use of laser surgery. He said the advantages of using a laser for such surgery for adult brit milah include: low-cost treatment and hospitalization, simplicity of procedure, minimal damage to surrounding tissue and speedy recovery process.

Wolk, who immigrated with his family in 1990, applied for a brit following strong encouragement from his 73-year-old grandmother, Ittke, who came to Israel together with the family. But doctors discerned a rare blood disease in him that prevents normal coagulation.

## YOUTH WHO REJECTED TREATMENT IS DEAD AT 19 OF THROAT CANCER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- A young man who won backing from Israel's High Court of Justice two years ago for his rejection of compulsory chemotherapy treatment died of throat cancer over the weekend. He was 19.

Itzik Blass died at Hadassah-Hebrew University Hospital in Ein Kerem on the eve of Sukkot.

Blass, who became a ba'al teshuvah, or newly religious Jew, during a sojourn in the United States, was a subject of national attention two years ago when he refused treatment from his doctors and asked the High Court to order his release from a closed hospital ward, where he was being held "a virtual prisoner, against my will."

The court granted his request. Blass thereupon slipped out of the country against his parents' wishes and found shelter in New York and Boston with members of the Orthodox Jewish community, who helped him receive alternative medical treatment.

He said he was strengthened in his resolve to reject chemical and other conventional treatment for cancer by blessings bestowed on him by the Lubavitcher rebbe and others. He became an Orthodox Jew, undertaking religious studies.

Persuaded by his mother to return home, he steadfastly continued to refuse conventional anti-cancer therapy.

Shortly before the High Holidays, he was stricken with severe pain and went to the hospital, where, his mother complained, doctors bluntly told him that he had only a few days to live. He died at the hospital Sunday.