

**COALITION CRISIS EASES A BIT  
AS PARTIES ADOPT LOWER PROFILE**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- The crisis threatening the stability of Yitzhak Rabin's government appears to be easing somewhat, with the prime minister's two contentious coalition partners adopting a lower profile.

The Sephardic Orthodox party Shas and the left-wing Meretz bloc are stepping back in anticipation of some quiet bargaining early next week.

Shas is under pressure to quit the 3-month old Labor-led government whose education minister, Shulamit Aloni of Meretz, has made controversial statements on religious issues.

But the religious party was rethinking a plan to call out supporters in a mass meeting next week that would step up pressure on its leadership to quit the coalition.

For its part, Meretz let it be known that it is ready and willing to resume the dialogue with the prime minister next week, even though a meeting this week proved fruitless in resolving the crisis.

The crisis is scheduled to come to a head Nov. 2, when the Knesset debates a series of no-confidence motions submitted by opposition religious parties over Aloni's statements.

Shas wants Aloni shifted from the sensitive education post. But Meretz parliamentary faction Chairman Yossi Sarid insisted in a television interview Wednesday night that his party would not agree to this.

Rabin, meanwhile, dismissed as "rubbish" media speculation that he plans to resign after the Nov. 2 vote, receive a new mandate from the president and set about rebuilding his coalition with the same partners and possibly also -- in a move to the right -- the United Torah Judaism bloc and/or the right-wing Tsomet party.

Sarid said his party would reject this as a transparent ploy if it entailed a portfolio other than education for Aloni.

**JEWISH GROUPS STEPPING UP CAMPAIGN  
FOR TOUGHER ACTION AGAINST SERBIA**

By Lisa Richwine

States News Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- Mindful of parallels to the Holocaust, American Jewish groups are stepping up their public campaign for tougher action against alleged Serbian atrocities in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a resolution adopted earlier this week, the governing council of the American Jewish Congress urged President Bush to "take the lead in galvanizing the international community to put a stop to the outrages" occurring in the former Yugoslav republic.

It urged the U.S. government to help mobilize international support for the "limited use of force in the form of surgical air strikes against specific strategic targets," noting that "no compelling arguments" had been advanced against such a policy.

"Only a failure of moral nerve and moral commitment can account for the obvious unwillingness of some European states to join in

concerted action toward this end," the resolution said.

The resolution also urged U.N. adoption of several measures, including the promotion of an immediate cease-fire, the enforcement of the current ban on military flights over Bosnian territory and the lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia.

In another action, the American Jewish Committee sent a letter Thursday to acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger urging further U.S. action to ensure humanitarian relief and aid refugees fleeing the region.

"To stop the fighting, the United States, together with our European allies, will need to bring increased political pressure to bear on Serbia and Croatia through the United Nations and, if absolutely necessary, support carefully defined military action," AJCommittee President Alfred Moses said in the letter.

The organization also hosted a meeting Thursday with the Bosnian ambassador to the United Nations, who urged Jewish organizations to lobby for tougher actions against the Serbians.

**'You Need To Remind The World'**

Speaking here Thursday to members of the American Jewish Committee, Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey said Serbian attacks against Croats and Moslems in Bosnia are similar to the slaughter of Jews during World War II, not in numbers but because they are fueled by ethnic hatred.

"You need to remind the world of the Holocaust," Sacirbey told the Jewish audience. "I believe very strongly that when we hear the words 'never again' it applies to all and not just Jews."

Sacirbey said the United States and other leading countries should use all possible means, including military air strikes, to end the violence before winter arrives and kills hundreds of thousands from exposure and hunger.

If the fighting can be halted, moderate factions of the three ethnic groups involved in the conflict could negotiate the creation of secular states, based on democratic values and bound by geography and culture rather than religion, the ambassador said.

But Sacirbey was not confident that President Bush would heed his advice and turn the threats against Serbia to ultimatums that could result in the use of military force.

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton has offered to step up action against Serbia if elected, Sacirbey said. But he added, "We are in no position to wait for a change in the administration to get help in humanitarian assistance and end the war."

Jewish leaders have lobbied the Bush administration to take the lead in resolving the Bosnian conflict since it erupted.

Jason Isaacson, director of the AJCommittee's Washington office, said he will continue to urge tougher action because the Jewish people do feel sympathy for the Serbs.

"Jews generally, because of our history, are particularly sensitive to attacks on minorities, attacks based on ethnicity and attacks by the strong against the weak," Isaacson said. "We'll do what we can."

## MORE THAN 300 JEWS REMAIN IN WAR-TORN BOSNIAN CAPITAL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- More and more Jews are coming forward in Sarajevo, and the number of those remaining in the war-torn capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina is now estimated at between 300 and 700.

The upward revision in the figure of Jews left in the city was announced by Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, who said some in the past had not publicly declared their Jewishness.

Forty-one of 75 Jews evacuated from Sarajevo last weekend arrived in Israel on Thursday and were sent to absorption centers in various parts of the country. Evacuees who stayed behind were taken to the Croatian cities of Split and Pirovac, in an operation executed by the Jewish Agency and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

The newcomers who arrived Thursday brought to 600 the number of immigrants who have arrived in Israel from Yugoslavia following the eruption of fighting there last year.

Another 200 teen-agers and young adults are enrolled in Youth Aliyah boarding schools.

Just under 5,000 Jews remain in what was formerly Yugoslavia, officials estimate. They include about 500 who have fled battle zones and are now in the Serbian capital of Belgrade, the Croatian capital of Zagreb and Split.

With the onset of winter, the Joint is shipping Israeli-made plastic sheeting to help insulate interiors in Sarajevo, where constant shelling has smashed windowpanes throughout the city.

Ten thousand square yards of soft plastic sheeting and 2,000 square yards of tough glass-like plastic will be shipped from Israel next week, it was reported here by Michael Schneider, the visiting executive vice president of the Joint.

The \$75,000 worth of insulation materials will be distributed by the Jewish community on a non-sectarian basis, Schneider said.

The shipment was made possible with the help of non-sectarian contributions of more than \$150,000 to the Joint in New York.

## FIGHTING AMONG CLANS IN TAJIKISTAN COMPLICATING RESCUE OF JEWS THERE

By Alexander Lesser

MOSCOW, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- The continuing fighting in the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan has raised concern over the fate of the estimated 10,000 Jews living there.

Israel has managed to get four plane-loads of Tajik Jews out of the country in recent weeks, but major logistical and political problems are preventing any large-scale evacuation, according to a senior Israeli official here.

As a result, only a few hundred Jews have made it out of the country.

Compounding the problem is that despite the heavy fighting among rival Tajik clans, "most Jews there do not want to leave now," said the Israeli official.

The fighting has left the former Soviet Union's poorest and most remote republic virtually cut off from the outside world. Tajikistan's main road and rail links are to neighboring Uzbekistan, which cut those links weeks ago to prevent the fighting from spreading across its borders.

Road links to the other ex-Soviet republic

which borders on Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, lead through difficult mountainous terrain. Tajikistan's remaining borders are with Afghanistan and China.

The lack of feasible land routes led the Israeli effort to focus on an airlift, said the source. But the airlift itself has been hampered by problems at the airport in Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, where some commercial flights from Moscow and other ex-Soviet cities are still landing.

"The airport is not secure," said the source. "There has been shooting in and around the terminal among the combatants and bandit gangs. One of our flights was nearly affected by the fighting."

In addition to the risk of violence, the refugees have faced severe customs restrictions on the belongings they may export, leading to long delays prior to departure.

At present, the airport authorities are not imposing any kind of exit fee or tax, but that may change. "We're afraid they (the local authorities) may get that idea," said the source.

The majority of Tajik Jews are Bukharan Jews, who are largely viewed by the non-Jewish population as indigenous. The Ashkenazic minority consists mostly of Jews who came to Tajikistan during the period of Soviet power. The fighting has not been directed against either Jewish group.

## ANGRY SETTLERS BLOCK ARAB CARS FOLLOWING ATTACK ON ARMY VEHICLE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- Angry Jewish settlers blocked Arab cars for over an hour Thursday along a West Bank road that witnessed an attack on an Israeli army vehicle the day before.

Residents of Beit Haggai, just south of Hebron, stopped Arab drivers on the Hebron-Beersheba road where a soldier was seriously wounded Wednesday.

Eitan Michaelson was shot in the chest, shoulder and lung by attackers who followed him in a white Peugeot and fired 20 rounds from a Russian-made Kalachnikov rifle.

Doctors removed part of Michaelson's left lung at Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, where he was recovering Thursday. An officer with him, Tehila Davidi, suffered only scratches.

The settlers charged the government was neglecting the security of Jewish residents in the area. They ended their demonstration after harsh verbal exchanges with soldiers, and traffic returned to normal.

Michaelson's life was saved by an unidentified Palestinian who has served in an Israeli prison for security offenses. The man was among the first to arrive at the scene and he offered his help. The wounded soldier at first refused, waiting for an Israel Defense Force reinforcement.

The Arab reassured him, telling him he was determined to save his life, and rushed him to Alia Hospital in Hebron, from where he was transferred to Jerusalem. Doctors said the action saved Michaelson's life.

The Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas phoned foreign news agencies Wednesday to claim responsibility for the attack.

It was the most serious of a number of assaults that took place Wednesday during a partial strike called in the administered territories by rejectionist front organizations that oppose the peace process. It coincided with the resumption of the peace talks in Washington.

## JEWISH LEADERS PUSHING VOTE FOR CANADIAN UNITY ON MONDAY

By Bram D. Eisenthal

MONTREAL, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- Seeking to keep French-speaking Quebec part of Canada, Jewish leaders here are supporting a proposed set of constitutional amendments in a nationwide referendum Monday.

But a Quebec separatist leader has urged Jews to turn down the compromise language of the amendments, which would recognize Quebec as a "distinct society" within the national union, saying there was no reason to fear secession.

Lucien Bouchard, a federal member of Parliament and leader of the Bloc Quebecois, told Jewish community leaders here last week they need have no trepidation over the treatment of minorities in a sovereign Quebec.

His efforts at reassurance came as polls showed a sharp split in the way the vote will go in Quebec. A majority of French-speaking Quebecers -- who make up 80 percent of the population -- is expected to vote against the constitutional changes, while sentiment in the Jewish community is running heavily in favor.

Polls show the "no" votes predominate in nationwide attitudes toward the complex reform package, which has been endorsed by all 10 provincial premiers.

Canadian Jewish leaders have warned that a vote against the referendum might trigger a Jewish exodus from Montreal. Some 80,000 to 90,000 Jews live in the city, where many national Jewish organizations have their headquarters.

English- and French-language television spots in support of the amendments are being shown by the Canadian Jewish Congress throughout Canada, except in Quebec, where the CJC does not have an official "yes" committee.

### Recalls Religious Intolerance

The two-minute ads feature CJC President Irving Abella and the chairman of the organization's National Unity Committee, Max Bernard, who argue the amendments serve the nation's interests.

Bernard also made appearances in Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton to back up support for a positive vote.

Bouchard said a "no" vote would not mean immediate sovereignty for Quebec, only that that option would remain open.

He said he recognized that selling the "no" option to the Jewish community was not going to be easy.

But he went on to argue that "open nationalism" would "benefit us all in the long run."

A former Canadian ambassador to Paris, Bouchard said the harmonious relations enjoyed by the Jewish community in France were also possible in Canada.

Bouchard, who at one time was close to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney but broke away to form his own separatist party, admitted that Quebec's record was not always one of religious tolerance.

"We all know that in the '30s, there were some problems for you (Jews), like quotas at McGill University. But it wasn't only here," he said, pointing to a similar situation in the United States at the time.

"We in Quebec have to make strong commitments that nothing like that will happen here again," he said.

## VIENNA GETS A SEPHARDIC SYNAGOGUE TO SERVE IMMIGRANTS OF FORMER USSR

By Marta S. Halpert

VIENNA (JTA) -- The president of Austria raised a glass in a toast of "L'chayim" this week to help inaugurate Vienna's first new synagogue in 68 years.

The presence of Thomas Klestil and other prominent Austrians underlined a clearly perceptible improvement in the atmosphere since Kurt Waldheim stepped down as president last year amid continued focus on his Nazi past.

The new Sephardic house of worship, dedicated on Hoshanah Rabbah, the seventh day of the Sukkot holiday, serves a community of 5,000 Jewish immigrants from the Asian republics of the former Soviet Union.

They brought their own prayer traditions to Vienna over the past two decades, when the city was the sole transit point for Soviet Jews en route to Israel or the United States.

Some chose to remain here to bolster Vienna's Jewish population.

The new synagogue stands in the prewar district nicknamed Mazzesinsel (island of matzot) in recognition of its then-thriving Jewish life. Vienna following World War I had a Jewish population of 220,000.

Klestil listened to a children's choir at the ceremony and thanked the Jewish community for once again creating a Jewish center in Vienna, where Jews had been persecuted in the past.

"I want to commit myself to these children, whose songs have touched me so deeply" that "they should live happily and without fear," the president said.

### Leaders Urged To 'Learn From Mistakes'

Rudolf Scholten, the minister of education and culture, as well as leaders of Parliament and the municipality were present to help dedicate the center, which replaces rented premises used by Georgian and Bukharan Jews, as well as those from the Caucasus.

Jewish tradition survived more strongly in these areas which were distant from the center of communist rule in European Russia.

The center, which cost some \$650,000, was made possible by the help of contributions of \$250,000 each by the Austrian Education Ministry and the city of Vienna, and \$150,000 from the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation.

The president of the Sephardic community, Grigori Galibov, said Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union stood a good chance of integrating into Austrian society without losing their Jewish identity.

"Our people can be found in shoe repair shops as well as in the universities," he said.

Further evidence of integration was cited by Chief Rabbi Paul Hayim Eisenberg, who observed that some young Jewish men among the recent immigrants had already fulfilled their civic duty by serving in the Austrian army.

A more somber note was struck by the president of the Austrian Jewish community, who alluded to the recent wave of xenophobic and anti-Semitic incidents in Germany.

Paul Grosz called on Austrian politicians to "learn from mistakes made in the past" by others and by themselves.

Grosz also said the new synagogue reflects the growth of the Austrian Jewish community, which now numbers about 15,000.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
WITH LITTLE TO LOSE ECONOMICALLY,  
NORTH AMERICAN JEWS MAKING ALIYAH**  
By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- When the Abell family of Chicago made aliyah in August, they left behind loving relatives and a comfortable lifestyle.

"It wasn't an easy decision," said 30-year-old Fran Abell, the mother of four young children, "but this is where we want to live, where we want our kids to grow up. We want their lives to have Jewish content, and Israel is obviously the best place for that."

Evidently, Abell is far from alone in these sentiments. Aliyah from North America is on the rise, and according to immigration officials, hundreds of people in the United States and Canada are planning to take the plunge in the near future.

During the first eight months of 1992, some 1,449 North American Jews made aliyah, a 43 percent rise over the same period last year. Nearly 420 people immigrated in August alone -- the highest monthly figure in the past four years. At this rate, about 2,600 North American olim are expected by year's end.

While the numbers are still paltry compared to the great wave of aliyah from the former Soviet republics, they indicate a change in attitude within the North American Jewish community. For the first time in many years, a growing number of North American Jews are seeing Israel as a viable option.

"While people come on aliyah for a variety of reasons, the sad state of the economy in the U.S. and Canada seems to be playing a large role right now," said Akiva Werber, director of the North American section of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Whereas in the past many Jews were reluctant to give up secure jobs or business opportunities for an uncertain future in Israel, the economic uncertainty in North America has led many people to rethink their decision.

**'No Longer Clinging' To American Dream**

According to Werber, "people used to have a good job, a nice house, an upwardly mobile lifestyle. These days, they're losing their jobs. Now that they're no longer clinging to the American dream, they're willing to take a chance. Sometimes that chance includes moving to Israel."

There are other factors at play as well, said Michael Goldstein, director of development at the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel.

"The rate of assimilation and intermarriage in the Diaspora is growing at an alarming rate, and parents are worried that their children don't have a strong Jewish identity. Many of the people who make aliyah do so for the sake of their children," he said.

A growing number of single people are also making aliyah, in part to find a Jewish spouse, said Werber of the Jewish Agency.

"We have no statistics on just how many singles have come recently, but the numbers are significant, especially in the 35 to 45 age group. They seem to be seeking a Jewish lifestyle as well as a partner," he said.

Married or single, those who immigrate usually make the decision after much deliberation, said Goldstein.

"It's not easy to leave one's family and community, to uproot from familiar surroundings,"

he said. "Potential immigrants do a lot of research before making up their minds."

This view was confirmed by Werber, who processes the files of new olim.

"No one who has come on aliyah in recent months is discovering Israel for the first time," he said. "Many have a religious tie to the country, though they are not necessarily Orthodox. Some have family here, others have participated in Zionist youth movements. Most have visited Israel at least once."

**Eventually 'You Have To Make A Break'**

For Boaz Fletcher, 25, from Toronto, coming on aliyah last month "was just something I had to do. I've always felt more at home here than anywhere else."

Fletcher, who attended Jewish day school and Bnei Akiva summer camps, said he had planned the move for several years.

"I've visited Israel several times and I have many friends here who were immigrants themselves at one time," he said. "They give me advice and I've learned through their experiences."

While Israel's unemployment rate is quite high, Fletcher, a designer of computer software, is confident he will find work eventually.

"I saved money while working in Canada, and I plan to live off it for a while, until I get a job," he said.

"Due to the recession, it took longer to save the money than I had anticipated," he added. "Now that I'm here, I hope my skills will prove marketable, and that knowing Hebrew will be a plus."

The only down side, he said, "is being so far from my family. It's very difficult, but there comes a point when you have to make a break, whether it's down the block or across the globe."

Here just two months, Fran Abell is just now becoming adjusted to life in Israel.

"There are so many little details," she said. "The first thing was getting my 6-year-old into first grade, and now I'm busy settling into our house. My husband travels back and forth to the States a great deal, so it's been a bit crazy."

Though she misses her family, she is hopeful that they, too, will make aliyah. "I hope to drag them here. My sister is already planning on coming, so it will be all right," she said a bit wistfully.

"I admit that there have been sacrifices in moving to Israel, such as family and money, but we never had such a high standard of living to begin with," she said. "When I look at the gains for my children, I know we made the right decision."

**NOT THE USUAL JEWISH PITCH**

By Gil Kezzer

TORONTO, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Charles Bronfman had the honor of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch of the third game of the World Series here Tuesday night, in recognition of having brought professional major league baseball to Canada in 1969 with his Montreal Expos National League franchise.

The pitch is a source of pride for the 150,000 Jews here, many of whom have been gripped by baseball fever this fall as Toronto's darling Blue Jays soared to the American League East pennant, the league championship and on to the World Series, the first played outside the United States since the tournament began in 1903.