

**JEWISH GROUPS EXPRESS DEEP DISMAY
AT ACQUITTAL IN CROWN HEIGHTS CASE**
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Jewish organizations have expressed deep disappointment with a jury verdict Thursday that cleared a black teen-ager of all charges in the murder of Hasidic scholar Yankel Rosenbaum during the rioting that tore through the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn in August 1991.

The 12-person State Supreme Court jury acquitted Lemrick Nelson Jr., 17, of all four charges: second-degree murder, depraved indifference, first-degree manslaughter and second-degree manslaughter.

"Today is a sad day in the history of New York," Judah Gribetz, president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, said in a statement.

"Those responsible for the murder of Yankel Rosenbaum continue to walk the streets. Their freedom is a blot on the record of our system of justice and an insult to all law-abiding citizens of New York."

The Anti-Defamation League also expressed dismay at the jury's verdict, calling on authorities to continue pursuing the case to bring those responsible to justice.

"In light of the overwhelming weight of evidence, we find the verdict difficult to comprehend," said Abraham Foxman, ADL national director, and Pam Schafler, chair of ADL's New York regional board.

"This verdict must not preclude further local and federal action against the perpetrators of this heinous crime," they said in a joint statement.

They called on Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes to "vigorously continue the investigation to identify and bring to justice those in the mob that attacked and murdered Yankel Rosenbaum, and at the same time for the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate a violation of Rosenbaum's civil rights."

Rosenbaum, a 29-year-old Lubavitcher Hasid visiting Crown Heights from Australia, was stabbed to death during the riots that erupted after a car driven by aides to the Lubavitcher rebbe struck and killed a 7-year-old black child named Gavin Cato.

**CRISIS AVERTED AT ECONOMIC TALKS
OVER REPRESENTATION OF PALESTINIANS**
By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- A case of diplomatic flu on the part of a Palestinian delegate averted a crisis here Thursday at the opening of multilateral talks on Middle East economic development.

The potential for a crisis emerged after Israel objected that the head of the Palestinian portion of the joint negotiating team with Jordan was a member of the Palestine National Council, the Palestine Liberation Organization's so-called parliament in exile.

Israel threatened to boycott the talks if Yusuf Sayagh participated.

The problem was resolved when Sayagh conveniently fell sick, enabling a Palestinian more

acceptable to the Israelis, Zeyn Mayasi, to head the delegation.

As part of the deal, Israel for the first time apparently agreed to allow the participation of two Palestinians living outside the administered territories: Mayasi, who was born in Haifa and lives in London, and Beshara Khader, a Palestinian professor of economics who lives in Belgium.

Asked to explain the Palestinians' decision not to press for Sayagh's inclusion, Mayasi said, "When you are weak, you just cannot say no."

And Khader pointed out that the inclusion of Palestinians outside the administered territories was a victory, considering that they were excluded from the conference in Madrid a year ago that opened the current peace process.

"Half of the Palestinian people lives outside Palestine," he pointed out.

Despite the deal on Palestinian representation, Syria and Lebanon boycotted the talks here, as they have for all five sets of multilateral talks on various Middle East regional issues.

Israel's presence in the territories and its recent incursions into Lebanon were cited by representatives of the two countries as their reason for not showing up to the talks here.

As for the talks themselves, the Palestinian delegates said they were particularly interested in a proposal floated by the United States to train the Palestinians to run their own affairs during the transition to autonomy in the territories.

'This Is A Breakthrough'

There were offers from other countries as well:

- Japan, one of the co-sponsors of the talks, volunteered to look into the development of regional tourism.

- France is ready to help with communications in all fields.

- The European Community suggested creating a network between Palestinian and European universities.

- Egypt spoke of creating a bank for regional development.

All this, said Uri Savir, deputy director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, shows that a new concept for the Middle East has been born in Paris -- that of regional interest.

"Till now, we had nationalisms opposing one another. For the first time, we are foreseeing a common future," said Savir, who was formerly consul general of Israel in New York.

Savir sees a linkage between the bilateral talks being held in Washington and the multilateral talks being held in various cities around the world.

"But I mean to say that this works both ways," he said. "There can be no progress in the bilaterals without progress in the multilaterals."

Savir described what had been discussed as "confidence-building measures."

"All this will take a lot of time," he said. "Between the minimum of what can be expected out of this current session and the maximum, the gap is very narrow. I think the minimum has been achieved by the very fact that this round of negotiations is taking place. We are discussing our common future."

"This is a breakthrough," he said.

GRASS-ROOTS CAMPAIGN BUILDING TO COMMUTE POLLARD'S SENTENCE

By Larry Nudelson

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- A grass-roots campaign to have Jonathan Pollard's life jail sentence commuted is building in the Jewish community.

The most recent manifestation of support for the former U.S. Navy analyst who passed secrets to Israel came in a full-page ad in The New York Times, signed by an unusually broad coalition of nearly 600 rabbis, which appeared Oct. 23.

The ad presented an open letter to President Bush on Pollard's behalf.

Campaign insiders say there is little likelihood the president will make a decision on clemency before next week's election.

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton has promised to review Pollard's case if he takes office.

And Pollard supporters note that, traditionally, defeated presidents use their lame-duck periods to issue commutations and pardons.

Even before the Supreme Court recently turned down Pollard's appeal for a review of his life sentence, his supporters had begun to shift the focus of their campaign from the injustice of his conviction, to the unfairness of his sentence and the harshness of his prison conditions.

The ad was sponsored and coordinated by Amcha, the Coalition for Jewish Concerns, a grass-roots group headed by New York Rabbi Avi Weiss, in cooperation with Citizens for Justice, the organization founded by the Pollard family.

It follows a series of resolutions in support of Pollard passed in recent months by numerous local community organizations and several national organizations, including B'nai Brith and the World Jewish Congress.

'Unduly Harsh' Sentence

The ad called on the president to "recognize that the lifetime sentence imposed upon Jonathan Pollard is unduly harsh and grossly inconsistent with the punishment given to other Americans convicted of similar and even worse crimes."

The co-signers asked the president for commutation of Pollard's sentence to time served -- now almost seven years -- which they said was consistent with, if not longer than, typical sentences for similar offenses.

Prominent among the signatories were the heads of the rabbinical schools of the Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist movements, and the executive directors and presidents of their four rabbinical organizations.

The rabbinical organizations, said Weiss, were instrumental in circulating the letter to their member rabbis and securing their signatures.

"It puts to rest the lie of some of the establishment Jewish organizations, that this is not a Jewish issue," said Weiss. "This proves beyond a doubt that the grass roots views this as a Jewish issue, and believes the time has come to commute the sentence."

Weiss said he believes Bush is aware of the ad.

But Dennis Ross, assistant to the president for policy planning, said that requests for commutation must be filed with the Justice Department, which reviews them and passes them on to the White House. To his knowledge, he said, the White House had not yet received any such formal application.

JEWIS WELCOME PAPAL STATEMENT OF NEW ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Jewish inter-religious affairs experts have welcomed Pope John Paul II's denouncement of the current resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe.

During his regular weekly audience at the Vatican on Wednesday, the pope said he condemned "profanations which offend the memory of the victims of the Shoah," the Hebrew word for the Holocaust.

"The church deplores the hate, the persecutions and all forms of anti-Semitism which target the Jews of any era and which are carried out by anybody," the pope said.

His statement marked the 27th anniversary of "Nostra Aetate," the Vatican document that invalidated the long-held Catholic belief in collective Jewish responsibility for the death of Jesus. "Nostra Aetate," published in 1965, fundamentally recast the Catholic view of Judaism.

John Paul II referred directly to the document in his address, saying, "I recall this anniversary having in mind very vividly the bitterness over the news of attacks and profanations which, for some time, offend the memory of the victims of the Shoah in those same places which were witness to the sufferings of millions of people.

"The church deplores the hatred, persecutions and displays of anti-Semitism directed against the Jews at any time and from any source," he said, adding: "Every form of racism is a sin against God and against man."

According to Rabbi Mark Winer, co-chair of the Synagogue Council of America's interfaith affairs committee, "the pope himself feels very deeply on a personal level the historic suffering of the Jewish people.

'A Very Positive Force'

"On his own religious faith he has committed himself to try to correct the sins of the Catholic Church's history in this regard," he said.

The Synagogue Council is a constituent of the International Jewish Committee on Inter-religious Consultations, or IJIC, the Jewish community's official dialogue partner with the Vatican.

Jerome Chanes, co-director for domestic concerns at the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, an umbrella for national agencies and community relations councils, also welcomed the pope's statements.

"It is entirely consistent with papal statements and Vatican actions of recent years," Chanes said.

IJIC Chairman Edgar Bronfman hailed the pope's message as "a great positive signal" before IJIC representatives meet with senior Vatican officials in Rome on Nov. 12.

At that meeting, three IJIC representatives will discuss with Catholic delegates an upcoming papal encyclical on the Holocaust and cooperation in the struggle against anti-Semitism in Europe.

The pope, while a young priest in Cracow, aided in the rescue of Jews during the Holocaust.

"His solid record goes back to the war years," said Winer, one of the three IJIC representatives who will be at the Nov. 12 meeting.

"This is one area where the pope is everything we could want him to be. He's a very positive force in dealing with anti-Semitism and bigotry of all kinds."

JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY APPROVES BUDGET THAT IS LEANER AND MEANER

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency for Israel will be running a tighter ship next year if it sticks to the budget its assembly adopted this week.

At the same time, the agency has succeeded in balancing its budget without throwing any of its programs overboard.

The agency is the principal recipient of money raised for Israel by the United Jewish Appeal and local federation campaigns in the United States.

The agency expects to spend \$480 million in 1993. The amended 1992 budget came in at just under \$600 million, a figure that included the paying off of most of a \$101 million deficit accumulated in 1990 and 1991, the peak years, so far, of the aliyah from the former Soviet Union.

"If we get all the cash in that has been promised, we will have met not only this year's expenditure, but paid the overflow (deficit) from last year," said Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the agency's Board of Governors.

Aliyah and immigrant absorption remain far and away the largest piece of the budgetary pie, representing over 45 percent of the total budget.

Next year's budget assumes the immigration of 100,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union, an increase from the 60,000 or so arriving this year.

Nonetheless, actual immigration and absorption costs are expected to decline, reflecting largely the transfer of responsibility for the 15,000 Ethiopian Jews who arrived in 1991 to the Israeli government.

A total of \$31 million is budgeted for the roughly 5,000 Jews who have arrived from Ethiopia this past year, a dramatic decline from the \$107 million spent on Ethiopians in 1992.

Also, per capita aliyah and absorption costs for immigrants from the former Soviet Union continue to decline. According to agency officials, long experience in the field, coupled with trial and error, have led to greater efficiency and cost cutting.

\$3 Million Cut In Youth Aliyah

The thousands of immigrants who arrived during the past year -- Ethiopians, Russians and others -- are still entitled to free housing in absorption centers or caravan parks, six months of Hebrew-language instruction and small stipends.

Next year's projected rise in immigration from the ex-Soviet republics will cost nearly \$109 million, compared with the 1992 total of \$74 million.

As in the past, a large chunk of the absorption money has been earmarked for job training and retraining. In Netanya, Ethiopian women will be able to learn hairdressing at a vocational high school, while in Jerusalem nearly 100 elderly Russian olim will have the opportunity to work in sheltered workshops.

To offset these costs, and to compensate for this year's projected \$8 million deficit, the assembly members decided to cut corners in other areas.

Youth Aliyah stirred up the most controversy. The decision to cut \$3 million from the \$78 million budget of the department, long considered the jewel in the agency's crown, met with shouts of opposition.

In the end, the department agreed to cut

personnel and administrative costs, and to reduce student enrollment.

At a plenary session to discuss the agency's goals and priorities, assembly members tackled the problems posed by the worldwide recession and shifting needs within Diaspora communities.

"Our ability to implement programs has been affected by the recession," said Howard Weisband, secretary-general of the agency. "While we're sure that we will reach our goal for the next couple of years, what about four or five years down the road?"

Cash Collection Running Behind

"With the recession in full swing, local Jewish communities abroad are feeling the financial crunch as well," said one prominent fundraiser who asked that his name not be used.

"Back in the U.S. and Canada, the government is cutting services and funds, and the Jewish communities try to fill the void. In the long run, this could result in less money being channeled to Israel," he said.

A sign of the hard times can be seen in the fact that UJA has received only \$327 million of the \$605 million donors have pledged this year.

Fund-raising professionals acknowledge that cash collection is behind where it should be at this time of year. But they point out that much of the money traditionally comes in the last quarter of the year.

Taking issue with the doom-sayers, UJA President Marvin Lender said, "I'm confident that we will be able to achieve our goals because we are using all of the UJA/federations' human resources to respond to the cash crunch.

"We're in the midst of an intensive cash campaign," he said.

(Contributing to this report was JTA staff writer Larry Yudelson in New York.)

HOLOCAUST-DENIER IRVING ARRESTED IN CANADA AFTER DEFYING ENTRY BAN

By Gil Kezwer

TORONTO, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Holocaust-denier David Irving was arrested Wednesday by police in Victoria, British Columbia, after slipping across the U.S. border in defiance of a ban on his entry to Canada.

The controversial British historian and author of pro-Nazi apologetics was apprehended in a Chinese restaurant decorated with photos of Adolf Hitler, after police had issued a countrywide warrant for his arrest.

He was giving a lecture, sponsored by a Holocaust-denial group called the Canadian Free Speech League. His talk had attracted an audience of about 50, many of whom followed Irving to police headquarters, singing "O Canada" and demanding his release.

Irving, 54, had scheduled a two-week speaking tour to similar groups in Calgary, Alberta; and Kitchener, Hamilton, Toronto and Ottawa, Ontario. But that was before Canada's immigration minister, Bernard Valcourt, barred him from entering the country.

Valcourt ruled that Irving's conviction this year in Germany on a charge of defaming Holocaust victims made him inadmissible to enter Canada under the country's immigration laws.

On Tuesday, a federal judge dismissed a motion to overturn that ban filed by Irving's lawyer, Douglas Christie of Victoria. Christie was with Irving at the time of his arrest.

**ELECTION '92:
IN CALIFORNIA, JEWS BACKING CLINTON,
HOPING FOR 2 JEWISH WOMEN SENATORS**
[Part 4 Of A Series]

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- "You don't have to be Jewish to like (Bill) Clinton," Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) told a Jewish crowd in Santa Monica here last week, "but shame on you if you are and don't support him."

By that standard, there will be few shamed-faced Jews in California on Election Day. While President Bush won some 30 percent of the Jewish vote four years ago, the current estimate is that he will be lucky to get 10 percent.

In general, the Bush campaign appears to have given up on California, despite its huge electoral bloc and a record of voting consistently for Republican presidential candidates since 1964.

Clinton's coattails, his California managers hope fervently, will pull in other Democratic office-seekers, especially in a year when -- contrary to usual form -- the Democratic Party is united and the Republicans are in disarray.

Democrats here are hoping that Tuesday's elections will make California not only the first state to have two women senators simultaneously, but two Jewish women senators.

The two Democratic candidates are former San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein and U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer of Marin County. Though they are known to have had differences in the past, they have been campaigning together, as they did at the Jewish community rally in Santa Monica last week.

At the Oct. 21 evening event, a band was playing upbeat Israeli folk tunes, blue and white balloons criss-crossed the hotel ballroom, and Clinton and Boxer buttons (in Hebrew and English lettering) were moving fast at \$2 apiece.

Trips To Israel Mentioned

The audience of 600 ardent supporters was primed for some rousing speeches on the two candidates' Jewish roots and convictions. But that expectation went largely unfulfilled.

While Feinstein and Boxer pressed all the right buttons on support for Israel, their best shots dealt with such general domestic concerns as jobs, health care, education, crime and women's rights. Both demanded that Germany and Japan pay for their own defense and relieve American taxpayers of the burden.

Even so, the two veteran politicians paid more attention to Israel this time than they did at a similar event in San Francisco earlier in the campaign, when neither mentioned the words "Jewish" or "Israel" at all.

At the Santa Monica rally, Feinstein recalled her two trips to Israel and quipped: "I had thought it was tough to be mayor of San Francisco until I talked to Mayor Teddy Kolek of Jerusalem."

Congresswoman Boxer praised Israel as "our best friend in the Middle East."

It was left largely to Lieberman, the only Orthodox Jew in the Senate, to lend the right haimitic touch to the occasion. Pushing mainly the presidential ticket, Lieberman described Arkansas Gov. Clinton as a man "who has worked for everything he has achieved -- nothing was handed to him. In this sense, he has led a very Jewish life."

Clinton's election, the dapper Lieberman

promised, "will be a turning point in American-Israeli history."

As for Clinton's running mate, Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee, Lieberman recalled a Friday in the Senate chamber when the debate ran well into the evening.

Realizing that Lieberman would not be able to use a car on the Sabbath, Gore came over and invited his Connecticut colleague to bed down at an apartment across the street from the Capitol.

Gore then accompanied Lieberman to the apartment and turned on the lights for him. "I call that a very high quality Shabbos goy," Lieberman said.

Race Is Tougher For Boxer

Feinstein, a formidable campaigner, is maintaining a comfortable lead of 17 percentage points over colorless Republican John Seymour, the appointed senatorial incumbent, in the race for a two-year term.

A lawsuit charging Feinstein with misreporting \$8 million in campaign contributions in her unsuccessful gubernatorial bid two years ago has apparently not harmed her popularity.

The race is much tougher for Boxer, whose comfortable 20-point lead over Republican Bruce Herschensohn has been halved in the last two weeks. According to one tracking poll, she now leads by a statistically insignificant margin of 4 points.

Observers credit Herschensohn, an arch-conservative Jewish television commentator, with getting an early jump in launching an effective campaign of TV commercials. Television is crucial in reaching voters in as large a state as California, and it is a medium in which Herschensohn has a professional edge.

Although both candidates are rated as pro-Israel, the militant Herschensohn has scored some points in the Jewish press by charging the strongly liberal Boxer with voting against foreign aid and military assistance bills that included hefty sums for Israel.

In any case, the fact that three out of four of the senatorial hopefuls are Jewish has played no part in the campaign, and probably few voters even realize that Feinstein, Boxer and Herschensohn are Jewish.

In addressing a Hadassah meeting, Boxer, whose maiden name is Levy, was surprised to learn that most of her audience was unaware that she is Jewish.

Anti-Semitism In San Diego Race

There is also a record number of Jews running for the House of Representatives -- 18 for the 52 seats at stake. For the most part, the candidates' Jewishness has not been an issue.

The exception is a bitter contest in a heavily Hispanic district in San Diego, where Republican Tony Valencia has attacked his Jewish opponent, Bob Filner, with blatantly anti-Semitic slurs and innuendos.

Filner, who was formerly director of the Institute for Judaic Studies at San Diego State University, is expected to win the race.

Currently, six Jews are serving in the California's House delegation. Even with the loss of Boxer and Rep. Mel Levine, who was beaten by Boxer in the senatorial primary, it is expected that the post-election delegation will include eight or nine Jews.

California now has a population of 30 million, of whom about 3 percent are Jewish.