

**LABOR GOVERNMENT SURVIVES CRISIS  
AS SHAS AND MERETZ REACH A TRUCE**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- Israel's Labor government survived its first major parliamentary challenge Monday when a series of no-confidence motions over controversial statements on religious issues made by Education Minister Shulamit Aloni were voted down 59-51.

An advance deal to safeguard the coalition made the actual vote something of an anti-climax and shifted the legislature's attention to a moment of drama staged by an opposition politician in the presence of television cameras.

Veteran Knesset member Menachem Porush of the haredi, or fervently Orthodox, United Torah Judaism bloc demonstratively tore his shirt as a symbol of Jewish mourning over Aloni's alleged blasphemies.

Aloni, in public statements several weeks ago, disparaged the literal version of biblical Creation and proposed that the name of God be omitted from a memorial prayer. Porush said that Jewish law requires observant Jews to perform the "kriah" (tearing) ritual over such heresy.

But he was nonplussed when, during the Knesset debate, a Labor Party negotiator disclosed that Porush had repeatedly met with Aloni in secret and veritably "begged" her to retain responsibility for the haredi education system and not delegate it to her deputy, Rabbi Moshe Maiya of the rival haredi party Shas.

"Which Menachem Porush are we to believe?" asked Health Minister Haim Ramon, "the one who tore kriah here over Aloni's blasphemies or the one who begged her to keep haredi schools under her wing?"

Ramon accused United Torah Judaism and the National Religious Party, both of which are in the opposition, unlike Shas, of "speaking in the name of God but not really meaning it."

"Some of you are dying to enter this government that you criticize so severely. Others are simply determined to tear it down," he said.

**Shas Delegation Didn't Vote**

Observers attuned to political nuance heard this as an indication that both Porush and government leaders are keeping the door open for United Torah Judaism to join the coalition in the future.

Further hints of this came in remarks by Porush before his dramatic presentation, in which he praised the policy goals set forward by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for the government.

In turn, Police Minister Moshe Shahal of Labor, speaking for the government, lauded Porush as a skilled and dignified parliamentarian who spoke "with pathos and feeling."

Shahal compared the speech of the United Torah Judaism leader favorably with those of two other opposition speakers: Ariel Sharon of Likud and Gonen Segev of Tsomet, who had argued on behalf of no-confidence motions related to security and diplomatic issues.

By pre-arrangement, Shas' six Knesset members stayed away from the Knesset for the no-confidence vote on Aloni's remarks. Their absence was in line with the terms of an agreement Labor

had worked out earlier in the day with its two coalition partners, Shas and Aloni's Meretz bloc.

As part of the same agreement, Rabin convened a brief Cabinet meeting before the Knesset debate to warn the feuding ministers against further "upsets" in relations between them.

**Aloni Expresses 'Great Regret'**

Statements made at the Cabinet session by the prime minister and by Aloni were read aloud from the Knesset podium by Ramon, who has played a mediating role in the coalition crisis.

In her statement, Aloni expressed "great regret" if her comments had offended the Orthodox community.

She reiterated her own and her party's desire for the continuation in office of the present government and pledged to work together with its other components in "mutual respect, mutual consideration, mutual listening and good will."

Rabin, in his statement, said that although he deplored Aloni's remarks, he had turned down Shas' request to remove her from the education post after she expressed her regret and provided assurances about the future.

He vowed he would use his "legal powers" if "upsets" such as those that had "plagued the Likud government" before him occurred in future.

The accord involving the left-wing Meretz and the haredi Shas was finalized at noon by the Shas Council of Torah Sages. In a unanimous decision, it instructed the Shas faction to abstain in the no-confidence vote, in light of the understandings reached with the prime minister.

Among these understandings is a role for Deputy Education Minister Maiya in directing Jewish heritage curricula in non-Orthodox state schools; arrangements for periodic lectures by rabbis in such schools; and tighter kashrut regulations for imported meat.

Observers in the Knesset were divided over the long-term significance of the day's events. Some agreed with Ramon, who said the government had emerged from the crisis "strengthened." Others predicted further discord ahead between the haredi Shas and the secular Meretz.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:****BORDER DISPUTE MAY FACILITATE  
ACCORD BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- Revival of a long-dormant border dispute between Israel and Jordan may, paradoxically, speed up peace negotiations between them.

Once Jordan gave up its claim to the West Bank in the mid-1980s, few points of difference remained with Israel.

It is almost as if going to the history books to dig up an old dispute over boundary lines serves the function of giving Amman and Jerusalem something to agree upon before signing a peace treaty.

So confident are expectations of an eventual accord that speculation is jumping ahead to joint Israeli-Jordanian ventures, such as a canal linking the Dead Sea and the Red Sea, tourism projects and open borders between Eilat and Aqaba.

In a scenario reminiscent of negotiations

between Egypt and Israel over the disposition of Taba, a resort town on the edge of Sinai south of Eilat, the border dispute with Jordan involves sifting through old maps and documents to establish the status-quo-ante in the Arava, years before Israel came into the world to introduce a new geographic reality.

The original border was determined in September 1922 by a British royal decree implementing the 1917 Balfour Declaration.

The border ran north from the Gulf of Eilat, at a point identical with the current border, to the junction of Israel, Jordan and Syria at the southern tip of the Golan Heights. On its way, it passed through the Arava Valley and the Dead Sea, and along the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers.

The royal decree suffered from one flaw: It failed to specify the exact lines. British royal geographers may have thought no one would care if a border ran a few yards east or west through a desert.

When Jordan won independence in 1946, it asked the British Mandate government for an exact demarcation of the border.

The British agreed but set about the task at a slow pace. It soon became evident the British Mandate was about to wind up, and the demarcation work ceased. Just over 2 miles of the 124-mile frontier had been delineated by the time the War of Independence broke out.

Under the 1949 armistice agreement between Israel and Jordan, the border between the two countries was to be determined by the British maps. But the maps apparently revealed little.

A senior Israeli geographer who took part in the armistice talks said this week that the border at the time was demarcated with a penciled line about  $\frac{1}{12}$  of an inch thick.

Professor Moshe Braver said he advised Col. Moshe Dayan, who was later to become chief of staff and defense minister, that this could cause trouble, since  $\frac{1}{12}$  of an inch on the map might mean 125 to 250 yards on the ground.

As a case in point, a similar margin of error in the Jerusalem area moved entire villages from one country to another. But Dayan wanted to finish the negotiations fast, and the demarcation line was left as it was -- eventually causing border clashes and leaving the issue open.

During the late 1960s, when Israel was plagued with incursions by Palestinian terrorists from Jordan, Israel pushed the border fence as far east as possible, away from local kibbutzim.

### ALIYAH UP SLIGHTLY IN OCTOBER IN TREND EXPECTED TO CONTINUE

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- Aliyah from the republics of the former Soviet Union edged upward slightly in October, reaching a new monthly high for the year with 6,832 arrivals.

While that is an improvement over September's figure of 6,725 arrivals, immigration is still way below what it was at this time during the last two years.

By comparison, 9,845 Jews arrived from the Soviet Union in October 1991 and 20,324 immigrated in October 1990, according to figures provided by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry in New York.

But aliyah is more than double what it was last May, when only 3,361 Jews arrived.

Immigration experts at the Jewish Agency and the Absorption Ministry attribute the higher

rate of aliyah during the past six months to political and economic uncertainty in the republics. As long as this uncertainty persists, they say, Jews will continue to make aliyah.

Immigration from the republics to the United States actually dropped last month to 3,406, down from a high of 6,073 in September, according to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society in New York.

But officials said September's influx was abnormally large because the agency made a special effort to get as many Jews out as possible before the U.S. fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

In Israel, overall aliyah remained fairly steady, with 7,542 people immigrating in October, compared to 7,585 the month before.

Immigrant Absorption Minister Yair Tsaban told the Jewish Agency Assembly last week that 61,371 people have immigrated in 1992, among them 50,768 from the Soviet successor states. At this rate, he predicted, aliyah will climb to 120,000 in 1993.

"The greatest number of immigrants are coming from trouble spots in the former Soviet Union," said Natasha Bechman, executive coordinator of the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum.

"The Jews there are worried about political instability and the economic crisis. In some areas, the strife borders on civil war." With winter's onset, she added, "things will only get worse."

Arnon Mantver, director-general of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, believes that a more positive factor might be at work as well.

"People who made aliyah more than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  years ago are finally adjusting to life here," he said. "We've learned from various surveys that people who arrived about 18 months ago are finding jobs and becoming integrated into Israeli society."

He added: "While I don't open the letters that these olim send back to friends and family in the republics, I'm sure that this good news is having a positive effect on immigration."

### RUSSIAN ENCLAVE EMBRACES ISLAMIC LAW, SPARKING FEAR AMONG 2,000 JEWS THERE

By Alexander Lesser

MOSCOW, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- The Chechen republic in the northern Caucasus region of Russia has become the first largely Moslem territory in the former Soviet Union to move toward imposing Islamic law, according to a human rights-oriented weekly here.

The impending change in government practices has instilled particular concern among the estimated 2,000 Jews who live in Chechnya, as it is called in Russian, the majority of them in the capital, Grozny.

A draft law, published Oct. 6 in the semi-official publication Golos Chechenskoi Respubliki (Voice of the Chechen Republic), prescribes amputation of the hand as the penalty for theft, among other punishments based on Sharia, or Islamic law. Rape or murder may be punished by death, according to the law.

Chechnya, which is located inside the Russian Federation, declared its independence from Moscow last year under the leadership of former Soviet air force Gen. Dzhokar Dudayev, an ethnic Chechen who sports a pencil-thin moustache and is partial to wearing bowler hats.

But the government of Russian President Boris Yeltsin has so far largely ignored the Chechnya's independence claims.

## GERMAN OFFICIAL RESIGNS HIS POST AFTER MAKING ANTI-SEMITIC COMMENT

By Igal Avidan

BERLIN, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- An official of the German city of Rostock has stepped down from his position after being assailed for anti-Semitic comments he directed at the head of Germany's Jewish community.

Karl-Heinz Schmidt, the chairman of the Committee for Internal Affairs of Rostock's City Council, resigned Monday evening after a row erupted over his insinuation that the German Jewish leader, Ignaz Bubis, pays allegiance to Israel rather than Germany.

Earlier in the day at a news conference, Schmidt demanded that Bubis publicly take a stand on the "Israeli terror against the Arabs."

Schmidt, a member of the ruling Christian Democrats, told Bubis, "You are, after all, a German Jew, and your homeland is Israel."

Bubis shot back angrily, "Such political behavior as painting Jews as strangers lays the cornerstone for the attacks of the right-wing extremists. My home is in Frankfurt and Judaism is no nationality."

He added: "The fact that Germany's Jewish community no longer exists is linked to questions like that."

The exchange was particularly notable in that the northern German port city of Rostock has been the site of particularly venomous attacks on foreigners.

A hostel for asylum-seekers was torched there two months ago by neo-Nazis, and a French Jewish group that protested those activities was itself apprehended by police.

Monday's incident occurred as Bubis and other German Jewish leaders were visiting the refugee center.

The Social Democratic mayor of Rostock, Klaus Kilimann, one of the first to demand Schmidt's resignation, apologized for what he called Schmidt's "provocation." He expressed the wish that a Jewish community would grow in Rostock.

In the evening, the Christian Democrats were called to an emergency meeting, after which Schmidt resigned both from the party and the City Council.

The party leader, Karl Abshagen, said he hopes to "limit the damage" with the resignation.

The secretary-general of the party, Peter Hinze, sharply criticized Schmidt's words as "unbearable and unacceptable."

And the head of the local Liberal Party, Walter Goldbeck, criticized the "insult" to Jewish citizens.

## GERMAN REJECTS CALLS TO RESIGN

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- The justice minister of the German state of Brandenburg has rejected opposition calls to resign over his covering up an arson attack at the site of the Ravensbruck concentration camp.

Hans Otto Braeutigam said last Friday that his department had displayed "lack of sensibility" but had not "failed morally" when it did not publicize last month's arson at the former women's camp in eastern Germany, near Berlin.

The attack, which caused minor damage, coincided with a visit to Germany of Queen Elizabeth of Britain. It is assumed that Braeuti-

gam's silence had to do with the monarch's visit. The ministry acknowledged the attack had occurred only after it was reported in the media.

The Jewish community in Germany has termed Braeutigam's silence an attempt at a cover-up, and the head of the community has called for police protection of all World War II memorials.

Ignaz Bubis said government action was needed in the wake of several desecrations of former concentration camps, including the cemetery at Dachau, the arson at Ravensbruck and the torching of a barracks and Jewish museum at Sachsenhausen.

## UJA TOPS LIST OF AMERICAN CHARITIES, RAISING MORE THAN SALVATION ARMY

By Lainie Blum-Cogan

NEW YORK, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal topped the list of America's 400 leading charities for the fiscal year 1991, according to a national survey.

Raising \$668.1 million in donations, UJA pulled ahead of last year's leader, the Salvation Army. That organization ranked second with \$649 million in donations, down from its 1990 total of \$658.7 million.

The Philanthropy 400, a list of the nation's largest non-profit organizations, arranged in order of how much they received from private donors, appears in the latest issue of the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

Combined, the top 400 non-profit charities raised \$19 billion -- up 5.8 percent from the previous year.

Far above the curve, UJA raised 57 percent more than last year, an increase that can be attributed to the Operation Exodus campaign to raise money to help resettle Soviet Jews in Israel.

Rabbi Brian Lurie, executive vice president of UJA, explained that the dramatic increase was caused by the acceleration of payment on both the annual campaign and Operation Exodus, necessitated because of a cash crunch in Israel caused by the Persian Gulf War and increased immigration.

Said Lurie, "We did a wonderful job last year. But now is the reality of 1992, and we have to worry constantly about raising enough cash. We have a tremendous cash need right now" because of the continuing mass immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

The local UJA-Federation of New York ranked eighth in the national list, with \$235.5 million in donations.

## PRETTY WOMAN PLAYED BYZANTINIUM

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- Israeli government archaeologists demonstrated this week that the world's oldest profession goes back at least 1,400 years.

They uncovered a sixth century building in Beit She'an with Greek floor inscriptions pointing to its use as a brothel.

"This is the room of the most beautiful lady," read one. "To the friends of Megas, who decorated the room and played with the girls all night long," said another.

After some initial hesitation, the archaeologists concluded that this building at the center of the ancient town indeed served as a brothel, which Byzantine culture regarded as an important public facility.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
SUPPORT FOR CLINTON IS SOLID  
AMONG AMERICAN JEWS IN ISRAEL**  
By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- If American Jewish voters living in Israel have their way, George Bush will lose his bid for re-election Tuesday.

Most Democrats and even many Republicans here believe the Bush administration is, at best, insensitive to this country's needs and, at worst, flagrantly anti-Israel.

While Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot are making a last-ditch effort to woo undecided Jewish voters in the United States, American Jews in Israel apparently made up their minds long ago.

"Unlike American Jews in the U.S., who tend to base their vote on a number of foreign and domestic issues, Americans living in Israel focus on one question: Which candidate will be better for Israel?" said Bryna Franklin, chairwoman of Democrats Abroad in Israel.

Even the Republicans admit that most American Jews in Israel, like the vast majority of Israelis, distrust the Bush administration.

"The administration made a really stupid set of mistakes," said Menahem Swirsky, who heads the local chapter of Republicans Abroad.

"The Republican convention in Houston left a lot of Jews feeling disenfranchised. Bush's harsh treatment of the Pollard case didn't win many Jewish votes, either. I can understand the attitude of people who are ready for new leadership," he conceded.

Whether Democrat or Republican, American Jews in Israel are vitally concerned with U.S.-Israeli relations. Any serious disagreement between the two countries leaves them deeply concerned about the future.

If informal discussions in the supermarket checkout line or at local cafes are any indication, many American Jews fear the United States is no longer committed to maintaining Israel's military edge, pointing to arms sales to the Arab states.

**Loan Guarantee Remars Recalled**

They remember how the administration forgave Egypt's multibillion-dollar debt following the Gulf War, while Israel, which withstood Scud missile attacks from Iraq, became embroiled in an embarrassing controversy over the loan guarantees. And they recall the president's sharp remarks about pro-Israel lobbyists and say, "I told you so."

If the election turns out to be as close as some pollsters are predicting, Jewish voters -- including those voting by absentee ballot -- could decide the balance in such key states as New Jersey, Connecticut and Ohio, according to political party leaders here.

Believing that Jewish votes can make the difference, local Democrats and Republicans have spent the past year trying to attract voters among the estimated 100,000 Americans living in Israel.

"In past elections, this wasn't always such an easy task," said Sheldon Shorer, legal council for Democrats Abroad. "Many American Jews who have lived here awhile don't feel compelled to vote in U.S. elections. They prefer to vote only in the Israeli elections, which focus on local problems."

About 25,000 Americans living in Israel voted in the 1988 presidential election, Shorer said.

This year, however, "voter interest has been

phenomenal, especially among those who didn't vote in the past," he said.

Shorer attributes the increase to voter dissatisfaction with the current government.

"Until now, I think voters were comfortable with the American government's position vis-a-vis Israel," he said. "This year, there is the perception that George Bush is no friend of Israel, and people feel it is their duty to vote."

**Nothing Good To Say About Bush**

Hinde Mezuman of Ra'anana is a case in point. In Israel for more than 20 years, she says she has become increasingly disconnected from life in the United States and therefore does not vote in American elections.

"I hadn't considered voting in this election either," she said, "until I read an article in our local newspaper urging all Americans to vote. This year, for the first time, I think I can make a difference. I hope it's not too late to get an absentee ballot."

Chani Barr, on the other hand, will not be voting next week. A resident of Moshav Yonatan on the Golan Heights, Barr said she is "not informed enough politically to vote in an American election.

"I don't have anything good to say about George Bush, but I've lived here for 20 years and think of myself, politically, as an Israeli," she said.

Murray Gingold, a Brooklyn-born computer programmer who now resides in Jerusalem, has no such qualms. "I'll be voting Democrat, not only because that's the way I traditionally vote, but because I view the Bush administration as anti-Israel.

"And although I resent the pressure both Bush and (former Secretary of State James) Baker have put on Israel, I'm also voting for a stronger U.S. economy, something I hope Clinton can achieve.

"My family in the U.S. has been affected by the recession, and, let's face it, a strong America is good for Israel in the long run," he said.

Yet while Gingold intends to vote for Clinton, he said he has "no illusions. I'm not convinced that Clinton will be good for Israel, either. I have some doubts about him, but I have more doubts about Bush."

**JERUSALEM MAYOR PRAISES BUSH**

By Cynthia Mann  
States News Service

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Jerusalem's crusty 81-year-old mayor, Teddy Kollek, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he has "a very positive opinion" of President Bush, but he stopped short of an endorsement, saying that would be inappropriate.

"I'm not a citizen of the United States and I don't participate in local politics and I don't have a right to vote," Kollek said in a recent telephone interview that was arranged through a member of the Bush presidential campaign.

But "I highly appreciate" several things Bush has done, the mayor continued, citing a list of pro-Israel accomplishments.

At the same time, Kollek said he did not "see any great dangers" in a Bill Clinton administration. He said that while he does not know the Arkansas governor, he has "high personal regard" for his running mate, Sen. Al Gore of Tennessee.