

CRB FOUNDATION LAUNCHES MAJOR EFFORT TO SEND EVERY JEWISH TEEN TO ISRAEL

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Nov. 16 (JTA) -- A trip to Israel will become as universal a rite of passage for American Jewish youth as a bar or bat mitzvah, if a new multimillion dollar effort succeeds.

The five-year project will set aside funds to help local federations promote summer trips to Israel and to provide scholarships for teens interested in taking the trips.

Those involved hope to raise the number of young Jews traveling to Israel from the current 8,000 a year to at least 50,000 annually by the year 2000. There are an estimated 350,000 Jewish teenagers in the United States and Canada.

Leading the newly announced effort is the CRB Foundation, which for five years has been researching the impact of Israel trips on Jewish identity. Partners with the foundation are the United Jewish Appeal, the Council of Jewish Federations, the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America and the Jewish Education Service of North America.

"The Israel Experience holds great promise for heightening awareness, strengthening identity and making a significant contribution to contemporary Jewish life, education and Jewish continuity," Charles Bronfman, president of the CRB Foundation, said as he announced the new program last week to 3,000 delegates attending the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations.

A 'Powerful' Educational Tool

"Here you have a powerful and viable educational vehicle, proven by all of the studies to have an enormous impact on personal identity and key decisions made later in life, and it is taken advantage of by an insignificant number of our young," said Peter Geffen, program officer for Israel trips at the Montreal-based foundation.

The initial program will provide grants to up to 12 communities that agree to match the money and make Israel trips a community priority.

UJA will provide \$750,000 worth of grants over three years, which will form the bulk of the funding. Rabbi Brian Lurie, UJA executive vice president, has for some time called for all Jewish youth to visit Israel.

The CRB Foundation has spent \$1.5 million annually the past few years researching the issue and setting up the framework for this new effort.

The participation of the UJA and CJF in the project will send the message that the Israel Experience, as the teen programs are called, is a communal priority and -- though this is being left unstated -- that the money for these programs will not have to come at the expense of local agencies.

For the project to work, Geffen said he expected that each dollar offered by the consortium of the Foundation and agencies will have to be matched by three dollars from the local community.

Half the money will be set aside for local scholarships and the other half for new staff positions and advertising to promote the programs.

"One thing is sure," he said. "If we don't

put money into infrastructure, and some form of scholarship and savings incentive program, we can't easily move from the place where we are at this moment.

"We are looking to effect systemic change in these individual communities, and eventually across the continent," said Geffen.

He added that broad participation in the Israel Experience requires community leadership to consider it important and stress its centrality.

Additionally, families must begin considering sending their children on such a trip long before they are teens.

"We must create methods of funding trips because no foundation can subsidize the hundreds of thousands of kids we're talking about sending to Israel," said Geffen. "So every community has to devote a percentage of their resources to funding."

However, subsidies by themselves are not the only answer, said Geffen.

He said that "while there is a clear percentage of young people for whom money would make all the difference in the world, on the other hand you could probably get 50,000 to Israel without money being an impediment.

"We remain an affluent community where many young people have cars, computers, summer camps, travel to Europe, and go to extremely expensive universities, all of which get paid for."

Geffen said that precisely how to convince American Jewry to send more than 5 percent of their children to Israel remains to be worked out.

"We're intentionally calling this a pilot process. Not having had the opportunity to test these questions in the field, no one can tell you if you do this or that, it will make a difference.

"Experiments have to be made," he said. Communities of different sizes in different geographical areas will lend themselves to different techniques of marketing.

"We're looking to learn over three years in each of the 12 communities things that can then be replicated across the continent."

ADL SURVEY SHOWS ANTI-SEMITIC VIEWS HELD BY NEARLY ONE IN FIVE AMERICANS
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 16 (JTA) -- Nearly a fifth of all Americans -- almost 40 million adults -- hold attitudes the Anti-Defamation League describes as strongly anti-Semitic, according to a new survey conducted on its behalf.

The national poll on American attitudes towards Jews, ADL's first major study of this kind since 1964, revealed a hard-core group that embraces a wide range of stereotypes about Jews. That group represented 29 percent of Americans when the last survey was conducted.

"It boggles the mind that in 1992 a significant segment of American society has bought into the classical canards and stereotypes that allege Jewish power," said Abraham Foxman, ADL national director.

Respondents' degree of anti-Semitism was measured against what ADL calls the "index of anti-Semitic belief," a series of 11 statements with which the person being surveyed was asked to agree or disagree.

The 11 statements included: "Jews stick together more than other Americans"; "Jews always like to be at the head of things"; "Jews are more loyal to Israel than America"; "Jews have too much power in the U.S. today"; "Jews have too much control and influence on Wall Street"; "Jews have too much power in the business world."

The fifth of respondents considered "hard-core haters" by ADL agreed with six or more of the statements.

The moderately anti-Semitic (39 percent) agreed with as few as two or as many as five of the statements, and those who agreed with none or one -- a 41 percent plurality of respondents -- are considered not anti-Semitic by ADL.

Twice as many African-Americans fell into the hard-core category (34 percent) as white Americans (17 percent), although, as in the general population, the overall level of anti-Semitism among blacks has declined over the last three decades.

"We are deeply troubled by the extent of anti-Semitic attitudes held by African-Americans which the survey revealed," said Foxman. "The black-Jewish relationship is a longstanding and special one, and we feel pained by the results."

The study also found that anti-Semitic beliefs are more likely to be found among the following groups: those over age 65, those who received a high-school education or less, and blue-collar or semiskilled workers.

Anti-Semitic beliefs were least prevalent among those under age 40 and those who are college-educated.

Not All Is Doom And Gloom

The survey's findings, based on a national poll of 1,101 American adults conducted in May by the Boston firm of Marttila & Kiley, do not necessarily paint a picture of doom and gloom, however, especially when viewed in the context of interethnic tensions generally.

As one expert, Jerome Chanes of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said at the Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly last week, "20 percent of any group probably has negative attitudes about any other group."

And according to the ADL survey, over the last three decades stereotypes about Jewish shadiness and dishonesty have become increasingly unacceptable to most Americans.

Since 1964, the percentage of Americans accepting a range of negative stereotypes about Jewish business practices has fallen off sharply, while the percentage rejecting these views has increased dramatically.

During the same period, however, stereotypes about Jewish power in the United States and American Jewish loyalty to Israel have become more prominent.

Eleven percent of respondents in 1964 agreed that Jews have too much power in the United States, and 31 percent agree today.

There has also been a slight rise -- from 30 percent to 35 percent -- in the percentage of Americans who believe that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the United States.

But when viewed in a larger context, these figures are offset at least somewhat by countervailing trends.

For instance, while 31 percent of respondents believe that Jews have too much power, nearly half say that whites in general have too

much power. And 20 percent say blacks have too much power.

And while the percentage of Americans who think that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the United States has increased slightly over the last decade, the percentage of Americans rejecting this statement has jumped much more dramatically over the same period.

There has also been a drop-off since 1964 in the level of acceptance of a number of other critical statements about Jews and a sharp increase in the rejection of those views.

For example, in 1992, those accepting the statement that Jews pretty much run the movie and television industries dropped by 19 percent, while those rejecting this view rose by 33 percent.

A survey of polls conducted from 1958 through 1990 on Americans' attitudes toward Jews, which was commissioned by the American Jewish Committee and published in January 1992, agrees with the ADL findings that stereotypes about Jews continue to be widely held.

But it also found that Jews have gained wide acceptance in American society, and have improved their social standing over the last three decades, although not as much as objective criteria like income and education levels should warrant.

HERZOG SEES BUSH AT WHITE HOUSE, EXPECTS NO CHANGE UNDER CLINTON

By Cynthia Mann
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (JTA) -- Israeli President Chaim Herzog met with President Bush on Monday and said afterward he anticipates no change in U.S. policy toward Israel when the president leaves office in January.

Herzog said he visited Bush to pay his respects and to "express our appreciation" for his sponsorship of the Middle East peace talks.

He also said he expressed gratitude to Bush for his leadership in the Persian Gulf War, which he said helped curb dangerous aggression and enhanced Israel's security.

The Israeli president said he did not discuss with Bush the details of the peace talks, which he conceded are not progressing rapidly.

"It's going to take a lot of time," he said. "But I'm convinced a process has begun which will ultimately conclude successfully."

Herzog said he believed the administration of President-elect Bill Clinton would bring continuity to U.S. relations with Israel, because it is in the "permanent interest" of the United States.

Herzog refused to be drawn into discussion with reporters outside the White House about American Jewish opposition to Bush for being "harder on Israel" than some other presidents. About 80 percent of Jewish voters backed Clinton on Election Day.

Herzog's White House visit followed a meeting Friday in New York with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, which was described as a "courtesy call" by a spokesperson for the Israeli Mission to the United Nations.

The two talked generally about the changing role of the United Nations and U.N.-Israeli relations. The meeting came the same week the United Nations sent a representative, for the first time and with Israel's approval, to multilateral talks in Ottawa on the Middle East refugee situation.

LIKUD DECIDES ON MARCH PRIMARY IN TACTICAL GAIN FOR NETANYAHU

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 16 (JTA) -- In a tactical victory for Benjamin Netanyahu, the Likud Central Committee has decided to hold a primary election for party leader next March.

A decisive 74 percent of the 3,000-member Central Committee voted Monday night to back Netanyahu's proposal that the winner of the primary automatically become the Likud candidate for prime minister in 1996.

While that has been the norm until now, 1996 will be different, because Israel will be directly electing its prime minister for the first time. Under the current system, the prime minister is usually the head of the party that wins the most votes in the elections for Knesset.

Ze'ev "Benny" Begin, son of the late Likud prime minister, had argued that the March primary choose only a party leader to succeed the retiring Yitzhak Shamir. He proposed that the party's candidate for prime minister be chosen at a later date, approximately a year before national elections.

But the vast majority of Central Committee members apparently agreed with Netanyahu that "primaries after primaries" were "not the way to rebuild the movement" after its defeat at the hands of Labor in the elections last June.

Another contender for the top post, former Foreign Minister David Levy, said the outcome of the vote was a victory for him as well, since his proposal was similar to that advanced by Netanyahu.

Unclear Whether Sharon Will Run

It differed only in allowing the Central Committee, on the request of half its members, to hold a second primary a year before the national elections if it was felt the chairman stood no chance of leading Likud to victory.

Even Begin tried to put a positive spin on his setback, saying he felt he had a good chance of winning the March primary.

But it was not clear from Ariel Sharon's statements after the Central Committee vote whether he would run in the primary. His own proposal, which garnered only 15 percent of the vote, called for election now of a secretary-general to rebuild the party, postponing a decision on party leader.

Prior to the vote, Sharon had indicated he would not run in a primary. But that was before the Central Committee decided against his proposal in favor of that put forward by Netanyahu.

The two other contenders in the Likud stakes, Knesset members Moshe Katsav and Meir Sheerit, did not take clearcut positions on the issue.

Netanyahu, a former ambassador to the United Nations who has been actively campaigning for the top party post for some time, scored another important victory at the Monday night session.

The Central Committee, by a large majority, approved his proposal for a 40 percent minimum in the primary. This means the winner need not secure an overall majority; a 40 percent-plus plurality will suffice.

Netanyahu said this would eliminate "deals" in the party. Outside observers said it meant he himself increased his chances of winning the leadership on the first ballot.

Levy had complained in a radio interview earlier that Netanyahu himself took part in an internal party deal designed to push Levy's supporters out of realistic spots in the Likud Knesset list last spring.

Netanyahu half denied the charge, but added that such tactics were "not illegal, they are simply wrong, and I want 'open politics' and an end of deals."

Analysts, meanwhile, pointed out that the five months until the primary is a long time -- long enough for Netanyahu's campaign to run out of steam and for another candidate to take the lead.

JEWISH GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRENADE ATTACK THAT KILLED ARAB

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 16 (JTA) -- Police are searching for the person who hurled an Israeli army-issue grenade into a Jerusalem marketplace on Monday, killing a 70-year-old Arab shopkeeper and wounding 12 others.

And they have not ruled out the possibility that the perpetrator is Jewish.

An Arab shopkeeper said he saw two men loitering near the site of the blast in Jerusalem's Old City shortly before the incident. He suspected that one of the men threw the grenade; both quickly disappeared from the scene immediately after the explosion.

A reporter at the newspaper Hadashot received a call warning of the attack from a man claiming to represent the right-wing Kach movement, Israel Radio reported. The same person called to claim responsibility for Kach after the grenade was hurled at the Butchers Market.

News reports said the caller linked the attack to the second anniversary of the slaying of Kach leader Rabbi Meir Kahane in New York.

A police spokesman said investigators were looking into this aspect of the case, but refused to say at this state whether it was the only or the likeliest lead.

Jerusalem Police Chief Haim Albaldes said he did not rule out Jewish responsibility for the attack, which occurred near houses taken over by Jews in the nearby Moslem Quarter.

ARAB PRISONERS' DEMANDS ACCEPTED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 16 (JTA) -- Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal has accepted most of the findings of a committee established to look into the demands of Arab security prisoners for improvements in their jail conditions.

The committee was established following a lengthy hunger strike by the prisoners throughout the territories.

The improvements they have requested include increasing family visits from 30 to 45 minutes, allowing young children to visit their fathers in prison without bars between them, allowing television sets in their cells, and replacing asbestos roofing with reinforced plastic.

But the committee rejected prisoners' demands for permission to celebrate Palestinian national holidays, to receive presents and to remove the protective shields used to separate adult family members from inmates during visits.

The committee also did not agree to a major demand: to reduce the number of prisoners in each cell.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
ISRAEL'S NEW U.N. AMBASSADOR HAS A DIFFERENT VISION OF WORLD BODY

By Larry Yudelson

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) -- The challenge for Israel's new ambassador to the United Nations is less that of *hasbarah*, responding to Arab canards against the Jewish state, and more that of harvesting the fruits of Israel's new diplomatic status.

Gad Yaacobi is settling into his post on the East River at a time when Israel has formal relations with two-thirds of the United Nations' 179 member states.

Instead of just attempting to roll back the tide of anti-Israel resolutions, such as the 1975 condemnation of Zionism as racism that was overturned last year, he is able to work on forging a role for Israel as a fully equal member of the world body.

"I would like to see Israel less a client of the U.N.," he says, referring in particular to the peacekeeping forces and observers sitting on Israel's borders, "and more as a participant in every sphere and field of activity."

One sign of progress on that front was the recent invitation Israel received to join U.N. civilian peacekeeping efforts around the world.

Another is Israel's effort to be accepted as a member of the Western European and Others working group, which would enable Israel to be elected to the Security Council and to chair U.N. committees.

Yaacobi acknowledges that it is "unrealistic" for Israel to join the more geographically appropriate Asian caucus until there are peaceful relations with the Arab countries.

He says joining the Western European group, which includes non-European democracies such as the United States and Australia, is a "completely justified" interim measure, one that has the strong support of the United States, the Netherlands and Denmark.

'The U.N. Has Changed'

A third sign of the new Israeli role at the United Nations is Yaacobi's impatience with the once-common denigration of the world body, summed up in an Israeli phrase best translated as "U.N.-shmu-en."

On the contrary. Yaacobi has not forgotten how, when he was 13 years old, the United Nations voted to create the State of Israel. And he recognizes the significance of U.N. membership in Israel's joining the family of nations.

He stresses that it was the Security Council that passed the resolutions, 242 and 338, that became the basis for Middle East peace negotiations for 25 years.

But beyond that, "the U.N. has changed since the end of the Cold War," he says. "In certain aspects, we're experiencing a totally different U.N."

Yaacobi cites the world body's role in trying to settle regional conflicts, how it has worked to resolve more such crises in the past three years than in the previous 45.

And Yaacobi believes the United Nations can contribute to resolving the conflict in the Middle East, as well.

Not in the way sought by the old General Assembly resolutions, calling for a U.N.-brokered regional peace conference, which remain on the books and even on this year's agenda.

Instead, says Yaacobi, the United Nations can help by contributing its expertise and resources to the solution of the non-political problems faced by the region.

To that end, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres reversed the policy of the Likud government and invited the United Nations to become a full participant in the five sets of multilateral peace talks on regional issues that complement the bilateral negotiations being held in Washington.

Favors More Aid To Territories

U.N. participation in the multilateral talks is constructive and justified, says Yaacobi, "because we are dealing with issues of regional development, of developing resources for the people in the area."

And while peace can only come from the face-to-face negotiations among the parties, the multilateral talks have a vital role in shaping Israeli-Arab cooperation once a settlement is reached.

The United Nations itself may also play a role in that process. Perhaps in recognition of that, Yaacobi met last week with William Draper, who heads the U.N. Development Program.

Since 1980, the program has spent more than \$25 million in the administered territories, on projects such as constructing hospitals and classrooms for the Palestinians.

Yaacobi's message to Draper: Keep it up, and more so.

The Israeli asked the U.N. official to create more jobs, enlarge facilities for health and education, invest more in infrastructure, and consider building warehouses and ports for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

"We have a great interest in decreasing tensions between Israel and the territories," says Yaacobi. "We want to focus on creating more employment in the territories (for Palestinians), rather than in Israel."

"It goes very much along with our concept of a future political settlement, based on a Jordanian-Palestinian state on the one side, Israel on the other, and a hermetic border, early warning systems and a comprehensive peace."

Yaacobi's arrival at the United Nations follows 23 years service in the Knesset, including stints heading the ministries of Transport, Economic Planning and Communications.

Like several other Israeli politicians, Yaacobi has several political tomes on his resume with titles such as "The Power of Quality" and "The Future Starts Now."

Favors Broader Cultural Ties

But the ambassador is rare among his colleagues for appearing not only on the political pages of the newspapers, but for contributing to the poetry section as well. Also to his credit are two books for children.

He believes that relations between Israel's artistic community and American Jewry have been insufficiently developed.

"We have to work on this common denominator in a more dynamic way," he says.

Along those lines, he opened the recently concluded Israel Film Festival in New York and is hosting an evening of Israeli poetry.

That event, featuring four Israeli poets, is newsworthy for being held in the United Nations' Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium. It is the first such Israeli-sponsored cultural event to be held at the United Nations, at least in recent memory.