

**CHRISTOPHER BRIEFS JEWISH LEADERS,  
IMPRESSES THEM WITH HIS COMMITMENT**By Deborah Kalb  
States News Service

WASHINGTON, March 17 (JTA) -- Jewish organizational leaders emerged from a meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher this week more confident that the Clinton administration has the best interests of Israel at heart.

Sources said the meeting Wednesday, which lasted about 45 minutes, was "very upbeat and positive," and that Christopher was forthcoming on such issues as the peace process, Syrian Jewry and the Arab economic boycott against Israel.

In his remarks to the group of over 100 Jewish organizational leaders and campaign contributors, Christopher discussed his recent meetings here with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, as well as his own trip to the Middle East last month.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said after the meeting that the secretary succeeded in conveying to him the Clinton administration's commitment to "sensitivity, understanding and a new level of cooperation" in the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Before Clinton's inauguration, Foxman had been among those Jewish organizational leaders expressing concern about where Christopher and other foreign policy appointees with past ties to the Carter administration would stand on Israel.

Christopher's attitude toward Israel at the off-the-record meeting, sources said, was similar to the warm tone displayed by President Clinton following his meeting Monday with Rabin.

**Spoke Of High Regard For Rabin**

The secretary spoke of his high regard for the Israeli prime minister, and of the trust and confidence the two officials have developed.

Christopher has been heavily involved in working toward a resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks. The talks are scheduled to reconvene here April 20, but it is unclear whether the Palestinian delegation will show up.

The Palestinians remain unsatisfied by a U.S.-Israeli compromise solution on the 415 Palestinians deported by Israel in December.

But according to one participant in Wednesday's meeting, Christopher said he viewed the way the United States and Israel dealt with the issue as a model to be followed in the future.

The secretary indicated during the meeting that there would be no further pressure on Israel to resolve the deportation issue. He said he was hopeful the Palestinians would return to the peace talks, or to the working groups that will take place prior to the talks.

Overall, Christopher did not discuss the specifics of his meetings with Rabin, sources said. But, according to one participant, the secretary did marvel at Rabin's ability to concentrate on his Washington agenda while a spate of terror attacks in Israel were going on.

Gail Pressberg, president of Americans for Peace Now, described Wednesday's meeting, which was organized by the White House, as "very relaxed." She praised Christopher for his "great sense of humor" and lack of "arrogance."

**THOUSANDS FLOCK TO MOUNT HERZL  
TO MOURN OLEH'S SENSELESS MURDER**

By Bram D. Eisenthal

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Yehoshua Friedberg had one more week left to finish his period of voluntary service in the Israeli army.

But sometime on March 7, as the 24-year-old Canadian immigrant hitchhiked from his Jerusalem yeshiva to an army base near Tel Aviv, Friedberg apparently was kidnapped by Palestinian extremists who would later kill him by shooting him three times through the heart.

Although treated by his captors ignominiously -- his body dumped on the side of the highway -- Friedberg was buried Monday with the honors of an Israeli war hero on Mount Herzl, as an outraged nation mourned his loss and throngs of emotionally distraught Israelis mobbed his funeral.

In the early afternoon, traffic in parts of Jerusalem came to a virtual standstill as thousands made their way from Friedberg's yeshiva up to the nation's military cemetery on Mount Herzl.

Friedberg's brutal murder came as one of a series of Palestinian attacks on Israelis this month that have driven the nation into a state of shock about a deteriorating security situation.

Friedberg, raised in Montreal, came to Israel two years ago in fulfillment of a dream cemented years earlier by a religious education, friends said at his funeral.

According to the family rabbi, Mordecai Zeitz, the young immigrant had "a million reasons" not to enter the army, including bad knees.

"But he felt he was an Israeli and therefore he should live up to his obligations like anyone else," Zeitz said at the funeral.

Friedberg did more than that. Instead of doing the normal four months of service in the army's hesder program, combining army service and religious study, he committed to nine months.

**'His Life Was Here'**

Moved by grief as well as anger at Palestinian violence, a crowd of over 7,000 men, women and children climbed Mount Herzl, some over rock walls, scraping hands and ripping clothes, in order to catch a glimpse of the coffin draped in the blue-and-white flag of Israel.

Friedberg's death was deeply mourned among his friends in the army's elite Golan Brigade.

"You were one of the best of us, a born leader," said his army commander, identified only as Lt. Col. Koby.

As the crowd of thousands waited in silence for the burial service to begin, a young soldier buried his head in the chest of a friend and sobbed uncontrollably.

Among the masses were many Canadians who came to pay their respects, as well as his family from Montreal.

A light rain began as tears flowed freely among the mourners. The air was cold as Israel Defense Force soldiers stood at attention and Friedberg was interred with full military honors.

Interviewed on television, Hubert Friedberg said his son's ardent bond with Israel prompted the family to bury him here instead of Montreal.

"Even though it is far away, we knew his life was here," the father said.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
TERROR ATTACKS LEAVE ISRAELIS  
FEELING FRIGHTENED AND ANGRY**  
By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA) -- The sharp increase in the number of Arab terrorist attacks against Jews in recent weeks has left Israelis feeling frightened and angry.

The wave of violence, which has claimed eight Israeli lives this month, has spurred the government, as well as individual citizens, into action.

For more than a month, Arab terror has been the lead story on the 9 p.m. television news, as well as the headline-grabber in daily newspapers. The issue has become so critical that, at the top of every hour, passengers on public buses fall silent so they can catch the latest news broadcast being piped over the loudspeaker.

The tension that has been simmering since the murder of border policeman Nissim Toledano in mid-December boiled over last weekend, following the slaying of Israel Defense Force soldier Yehoshua Friedberg, an idealistic immigrant from Montreal.

Friedberg's murder, coming on top of several others, evoked a nationwide outpouring of rage and sorrow -- rage that yet another soldier had been kidnapped and killed, and sorrow at the senselessness of the young immigrant's death.

His brutal slaying has galvanized the government into action. All too aware of the public's growing concerns over national security and personal safety, the authorities have begun taking steps to calm the situation.

Israelis on the street, meanwhile, are taking extraordinary precautions.

"I've felt a growing sense of uneasiness in the last month," said Yael Friedman, a Hebrew-language teacher in Jerusalem.

"Now, when I pass a construction site with Arab workers, I make it my business to walk very quickly. If I suspect that an Arab is walking behind me, I cross to the other side of the street.

"I hate to admit it," she continued, "but I went out and bought a can of tear gas a month ago, when things started getting really tense."

**Growing Fears For Family's Safety**

"I've begun carrying my gun around more than I used to," said Harold Bergstein, a dentist who works in the administered territories a couple of times a week.

"I bought the gun two years ago, at the time I starting working in the territories," he said, "but I didn't feel compelled to carry it at other times.

"These days, I wear the gun not so much for personal safety reasons -- I don't feel that much safer with it, to tell you the truth -- but because I would never forgive myself if I encountered a terrorist and the gun was sitting in a drawer back home."

Bergstein does not advocate issuing gun permits to all citizens, however. "While I trust that those people who already have permits will use their guns responsibly, the idea that every home should have a gun smacks of vigilantism," he said. "A gun permit isn't a right; it's a responsibility."

Electrician Gidi Yacoby maintains that he will never pack a gun, despite growing fears for his family's safety.

"Events over the past month have definitely worried me," he admitted. "I'm not afraid for myself, but I'm scared to death that something will happen to my wife and 1 1/2-year old son."

Yacoby said his wife's car was recently stoned in Abu Tor, an Arab-Jewish neighborhood where his son goes to preschool. "They're constantly torching cars there, for God's sake," he lamented.

Still, he said, "I don't carry a weapon. I'm too hot-tempered. I know that if I had a gun and I felt threatened, I would shoot first and ask questions later.

"Terrorism is frightening, but so is the thought of hot-headed people like me walking around with guns."

Despite recent terror incidents, Erica Farber, a tourist from Long Island, said she feels "safer in Israel than I do in New York."

While she said she understands the concern of many Israelis, she does not share it.

"I've heard a lot about terror since I've been here," said the 19-year-old, "but I'm not at all afraid. I'm not looking over my shoulder."

In deference to her Israeli cousins, Farber does not hitchhike, and she informs her family where she is going.

"Honestly, I feel very safe here," she said, "but I'm from New York, so everything's relative."

**ISRAELI POLICE TIGHTEN SECURITY  
AS UNREST IN TERRITORIES CONTINUES**  
By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA) -- Police further tightened security Wednesday as clashes continued between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers and a protest by Jewish settlers grew violent.

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli troops injured more than 50 Palestinians in the town of Khan Yunis during confrontations over a newly erected military lookout post.

Witnesses said Arabs began stoning the outpost in the hope that it would be dismantled, triggering the second consecutive day of clashes in Khan Yunis.

In another incident, a train bound from Tel Aviv to Haifa was detained for about 20 minutes after a fake bomb threat.

A caller who said he was affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Organization told police there was a bomb on board, but nothing was found.

Meanwhile, Jewish settlers in the West Bank burned down an Arab-owned gas station near the spot where two Israelis were run down and killed by an Arab driver earlier this week north of Ramallah.

Some local residents said settlers also fired shots at passing Arab vehicles and stoned houses in a Palestinian village.

As part of a security crackdown, police on Tuesday night carried out several raids against Palestinians from the territories who remained illegally inside Israel proper at construction sites and farming areas.

In the coastal plain and in the north, Palestinian laborers were picked up, booked and driven back to the territories.

The army also purchased 100 metal detectors to be installed at the checkpoints at which Arabs from the territories cross into Israel proper.

And it increased the number of special forces stationed in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

**JEWISH LEADERS GET A FIRST LOOK AT CLINTON'S DOMESTIC PRIORITIES**

 By Deborah Kalb  
 States News Service

WASHINGTON, March 17 (JTA) -- Since President Clinton's inauguration, much of the interaction between his administration and organized American Jewry has focused on the U.S.-Israel relationship.

This week, Jewish organizational leaders had one of their first opportunities to examine the administration's domestic policies up close, and they were pleased at what they saw.

The opportunity came when top administration officials, including two Cabinet members, addressed a legislative policy conference here sponsored by the American Jewish Congress.

The 100-plus conference participants, who braved the "storm of the century" to get to Washington, got a chance to hear top policymakers discuss such hot topics as the administration's new economic plan and its proposals for revamping the health care system.

The officials' main theme was change, said Mark Pelavin, AJCongress Washington representative. "Not incremental change," he added, "but a broad ambitious program."

"The change they were talking about," said AJCongress Executive Vice President Henry Siegman, "was on such a broad range of fronts -- health care, welfare, the economy -- that one begins to take seriously" the phrase "reinventing government."

For the first time in over a decade, AJCongress finds itself on the same side as the incumbent administration on a range of domestic issues.

Jewish groups, for the most part, have hailed many of the administration's early domestic policy decisions, such as the lifting of some restrictions on women's access to abortions and plans to seek increased support for social service programs.

What impressed AJCongress leaders the most at the conference, they said afterward, was the unified presentation of themes and ideas by the administration officials.

"I've dealt with other administrations," said AJCongress President Robert Lifton, "and I've never seen as unified" a presentation. "It's a great testament to the president."

**Talk Of Merger With AJCommittee**

Among those addressing the conference were Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala; Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros; Leon Panetta, director of the Office of Management and Budget; and Roger Altman, deputy secretary of the treasury.

Pelavin said that having two Cabinet secretaries, a deputy secretary and the OMB director speak to a group of 120 people "says a lot about the value of the Jewish community" to the Clinton administration.

Clinton received approximately 80 percent of the Jewish vote in November, a level of support that was noted by many of the speakers.

In her remarks Tuesday, Shalala focused on the need for both health care reform and welfare reform, two ideas that she linked.

She observed that one reason people stay on welfare is so that they could receive health care, a factor that would no longer be relevant once Hillary Rodham Clinton's task force on health care produced a plan to change the system.

Welfare, the secretary said, would no longer

be a permanent program but would become "transitional," helping people in need for a limited period of time. The administration would create job training and support programs. Only the elderly and the disabled, she said, would be eligible to remain on welfare on a long-term basis.

Cisneros, who addressed the conference Monday, discussed incorporating "broader human themes" at HUD and the importance of building up a sense of community.

Panetta, who also spoke Monday, talked about the Clinton economic plan, stating that the economic stimulus package proposed by the president is necessary to "ensure a strong recovery."

Although AJCongress shares many of the concerns of the new administration, Siegman said there are some issues on which they disagree.

He pointed to the Clinton position regarding the return of Haitian refugees and said the administration's commitment to take forceful action to end Serbian atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina is not as strong as AJCongress would like.

Conference participants also discussed the possibility of merging with the American Jewish Committee, an idea that has been floated in recent months.

Lifton said he was "delighted" with the response to the idea so far. "It was a good beginning," he said.

**KNESSET CLEARS WAY FOR OFFICIAL**
**TO BE PROSECUTED FOR MALFEASANCE**

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, March 17 (JTA) -- The Knesset voted 58-41 on a secret ballot Wednesday to strip Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Raphael Pinhasi of his parliamentary immunity so that he can face charges of misappropriating of party funds.

The move threatens to strain relations between the Labor Party and Pinhasi's Shas party, potentially triggering a political crisis in the governing coalition.

The Knesset action to lift Pinhasi's immunity had been sought by Attorney General Yosef Harish.

Pinhasi's supporters said his only hope of avoiding indictment was for the country's High Court of Justice to disqualify the Knesset vote, in which eight members abstained.

The accusations leveled at Pinhasi concern alleged misappropriation of state-supplied election funds by Shas during the 1988 parliamentary campaign and afterward.

Pinhasi is one of three Shas officials accused of wrongly appropriating government funds.

Former Knesset member Yair Levy has begun serving a five-year prison sentence for stealing monies from the party. Levy lost his parliamentary immunity in November 1991.

And Interior Minister Arye Deri broke his silence in early February and agreed to cooperate with the police investigation into his alleged wrongdoings, a probe that has been in progress for the past two years.

Pinhasi's lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, has charged that the Knesset action is a political one, motivated by general anti-Shas sentiment and a media campaign directed against Pinhasi.

Shas has retaliated against the Labor Party for failing to shield Pinhasi from prosecution by withholding its endorsement of Labor's candidate for president candidate, Ezer Weizman.

Shas officials have also made threatening noises about quitting the coalition.

**RETHINKING ISRAEL PROGRAMS:  
EFFORT TO SEND MORE TEENS-AGERS  
FLOURISHING IN MANY COMMUNITIES**

[Part 1 Of A Series]

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, March 17 (JTA) -- A continental effort to make a trip to Israel as common for Jewish kids as is a bar or bat mitzvah is getting an enthusiastic start, just four months after it was announced.

Jewish community federations in a dozen cities across North America have joined the effort, and more are expected soon.

The federations of Washington, Palm Beach, Fla., Atlanta, and the Manhattan and Westchester regions of the UJA-Federation of New York will be among the first to work with the new consortium promoting the "Israel experience."

The consortium is spearheaded by the Montreal-based CRB Foundation, in conjunction with the United Jewish Appeal, the Council of Jewish Federations, the Jewish Community Centers Association and Jewish Educational Services of North America.

The communities in the program will have to put up three dollars for every dollar given by the consortium, a sum that will be split between providing scholarships for the trips and financing new ways of attracting people to the trips. At the minimum, this effort is likely to involve each community assigning a staff member to this area.

As importantly, the communities are being asked to make trips to Israel a local priority.

"We're trying to say that being a Jewish teen-ager means that one year you'll go to Israel, just like a Mormon does community service," said Robert Hyfler, director for budget and planning at the UJA Federation of Greater Washington.

Evidence that this is possible comes from the reaction the CRB Foundation has received to its program -- a reaction that forced it to speed up and expand what was originally planned as just a pilot program for four or five communities.

"The intensity of interest was really unbelievable," said Peter Geffen, director of Israel programs for the foundation.

The interest was not just from educators or federation professionals. Major donors have pledged up to \$1 million in several cities, practically forcing the sponsoring consortium to include those communities.

**Seventh Graders To Be Targeted**

According to Geffen, the participating communities are seeking to raise money for their endowment funds to pay for the program, rather than making allocations from their present campaign budget.

Hyfler said support for this program is not surprising. He noted that one study had found that the two concerns of major givers to federations are Jewish continuity and support for a strong Israel.

Their gifts to UJA supported Israel, "but they weren't sure what they could do to turn around Jewish continuity," said Hyfler.

"We think that in what we're doing, built around sending kinds to Israel, we have an answer," he said.

Because Hyfler's federation began considering promoting Israel trips during its own study of how to promote Jewish continuity, its plans are further along than most.

The Washington proposal, laid out by federa-

tion President Philip Margolius at a recent CJF meeting in Phoenix, is nothing if not ambitious.

This plan would lay the groundwork for a high school trip to Israel years before, in Hebrew school.

Seventh graders, about to become bar or bat mitzvah, would be targeted for intense marketing, including ads in school newspapers and camp yearbooks. Their parents would be urged to encourage that bar and bat mitzvah gifts be applied to a special savings program for the trip.

For high school students, the community would encourage enrollment in the existing youth groups, but it would bring all of them together in "community-wide mega-events" to "reinforce the youths' connection to a larger mass phenomenon" as well as to lead toward the Israel trip.

Financially, the major challenge will be raising money for a \$1,000 subsidy for each participant. Costs for Israel summer programs are now hitting the \$4,000 level.

The subsidy for Washington students alone would cost \$500,000 annually, if the community succeeds in meeting its goal for the year 2000: getting half of all Jewish teens who receive a bar or bat mitzvah to then take the trip.

In New York, Palm Beach and Atlanta, discussion is just getting under way on how to proceed, with the hope that the beginnings of a plan would be in place in a matter of weeks.

Other cities whose participation has been announced include Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Jersey's MetroWest federation, San Francisco, Toronto and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Geffen will only begin meeting with this next group of communities this summer, after plans for the initial group are well under way.

"Everybody is clear this is an action project," said Geffen. "We know what we want to do. How to do it is precisely the point of the project. We are absolutely convinced we will learn as much from our failures as from our successes."

**FIGHT AMONG FOWL FOES TURNS FOUL**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) -- You could call it a chicken fight.

Perdue Farms is suing Empire Kosher Poultry for allegedly infringing on its trademark.

Perdue has long based its advertising campaign on a slogan made famous by owner and spokesman Frank Perdue: "It takes a tough man to make a tender chicken."

Now Empire, in a new advertising campaign, is using the tag line, "It takes an even tougher man to make a kosher chicken" under a picture of a baleful Moses holding aloft the tablets of the Ten Commandments.

According to Perdue's lawsuit, filed in federal district court here, Empire's campaign constitutes an infringement of Perdue's trademark and false advertising. Perdue also says the new advertisement will confuse consumers.

But the court did not agree and has refused to issue a temporary restraining order against Empire.

The ad campaign, created by New York advertising agency Folis, Devito & Verdi, appears in local newspapers and subway stations.

Empire says it plans to fight the lawsuit.

Warned Jim Geisz, Empire's in-house legal counsel: "if Frank Perdue insists on pursuing this, we may have to feature him in our next set of ads, in a David and Goliath theme."