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**NEW JEWISH COMMUNAL POLICY PLAN  
SHIFTS FOCUS TO DOMESTIC CONCERNS**

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, July 15 (JTA) -- Renewed attention to social justice concerns is a focus of the organized American Jewish community's blueprint for the coming year on a host of public policy issues.

This reflects both the possibilities for change raised by the new Clinton administration and the fact that the Middle East peace talks and the generally free emigration of Jews from the now-independent republics of the former Soviet Union have lessened the urgency of what were formerly top priority issues.

For the first time in at least five years, this year's Joint Program Plan, as the policy blueprint is known, leads off with a section devoted to "Equal Opportunity and Social Justice," rather than "Israel and the Middle East" or "International Concerns."

Among the top domestic priorities spelled out in the plan for 1993-94 are poverty and the urban agenda, immigration and refugee policy, and health care issues.

The plan, released last week, is published annually by the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council to provide policy guidelines to its constituent groups, which include 13 national Jewish agencies and 117 local community relations councils.

The plan provides an overview of organized American Jewry's chief concerns in the public arena, and the information it contains will shape the way these issues are addressed by the agencies charged with acting on behalf of American Jews.

NJCRCAC has traditionally maintained a strong interest in domestic issues, unlike other Jewish umbrella groups, such as the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which is chiefly preoccupied with Israel.

**Concern With Urban Issues**

"By embracing the challenge for change offered by the Clinton administration, the organized Jewish community will strengthen its record of commitment to the social justice agenda," the plan states in its introduction.

Such a move, the plan stresses, would also assure "continuing support in the administration and Congress for our traditional interest in Israel and the pursuit of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

The plan looks closely at 18 issues. For each, a detailed analysis, focusing on events of the past year, is coupled with a series of "strategic goals."

For example, one goal concerning poverty charges the Jewish community relations field to "urge the administration and the Congress to consider as a top priority developing policies and strategies that focus on blighted urban areas, including rebuilding urban infrastructure; initiatives that will expand the base of safe and affordable low-cost housing and emergency shelters for those in need; improvements in the public transportation system, especially so that there is better access to job opportunities not located in city centers; developing an anti-crime strategy

that renders urban centers safer for families and increases the safety and protection of children."

Goals on other issues include continuing present levels of immigration to the United States, and raising public awareness of the benefits immigrants and refugees provide to American society; supporting legislation that would establish a national system of enforcing the collection of child support; developing programs to educate the community about the significance and urgency of the Middle East peace process; and educating Congress and the administration on the basis of the Jewish community's position in support of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel.

One new area addressed in this year's plan is that of Muslim-Jewish relations.

"A complex cluster of issues presents challenges for the Jewish community in relations with American Muslims," according to the plan, "even as opportunities arise for coalescing with Muslim groups on issues of common cause."

Such issues have included the crisis in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the famine in Somalia.

**Dialogue With Muslims Urged**

The section calls on the Jewish communal relations field to educate "the American Jewish community with respect to Muslims in America, and promote communal activities that bring Jews and Muslims together in order to learn about each other's traditions; work to dispel misconceptions and stereotypes about Islam and Muslims in the community at-large; focus on issues of common concern on the public affairs agenda, such as religious liberty, the 'urban agenda' and family issues."

The plan also urges the community to "engage in dialogue with Muslim-American leadership on Israel and the Middle East, and other international issues of mutual concern; join the Muslim lay and clerical leadership in America in discussions and dialogue on social and communal issues; seek to meet in discussion and coalition with those in the Black Muslim community who espouse tolerance and interracial cooperation, utilizing common ground on such issues as crime, health care, substance abuse, unemployment and religious liberty."

With few exceptions, the goals represent the unanimous consensus of NJCRCAC member agencies. The exceptions include annual dissents by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America from the document's support for "reproductive choice," and from its opposition to the display of Chanukah menorahs in public spaces.

Also registering multiple dissents was the Jewish War Veterans of the USA. Among the proposals that the JWV objected to was a call for the United States to take whatever steps are needed to stop the conflict in Bosnia, and a call for an end to the U.S. ban on the entry into this country of potential immigrants infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

NJCRCAC Executive Vice Chairman Lawrence Rubin said the Joint Program Plan sets forth "a reasonable and incisive agenda for the field. Our experience is that the field takes it seriously, pays attention to issues that are there and uses it to guide them in their own activities."

**SLOVENIA TO OPEN EMBASSY IN ISRAEL  
IN WAKE OF VISIT BY FOREIGN MINISTER****By Marta S. Halpert**

VIENNA, July 15 (JTA) -- The young republic of Slovenia, formerly part of Yugoslavia, will open an embassy in Israel by the end of the year.

Agreement on the matter was reached during an informal meeting between Prime Minister Lojze Peterle and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Slovenia.

Peter Aran, Israel's ambassador to Austria, was accredited to Slovenia in April, and the Israeli Embassy in Vienna is to represent Israel in Ljubljana, the Slovenian capital.

During Peres' short visit to Slovenia, a cultural treaty of cooperation between the two countries was signed.

A Slovenian scientific delegation has visited Israel, and talks are under way to reach an air traffic agreement with the Slovenian company Adria.

Slovenia's Jewish community numbers only 78 members today, mainly elderly people. Before World War II, some 400 Jews lived in the region.

"There is a lot of admiration and good will toward Israel," said Doron Grossmann, first secretary of the Israeli Embassy in Vienna, who accompanied Peres on his trip to Slovenia. "People here feel that Israel could be a good example for a small state surviving in difficult circumstances," he said.

Slovenia also plans to organize missions to Israel to investigate the possibilities of economic cooperation.

**MORE JEWS ARRIVE FROM YEMEN  
AMID CONCERN ABOUT PUBLICITY****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, July 15 (JTA) -- A group of 34 Jewish immigrants from Yemen arrived here Thursday, as some opposition leaders expressed concern that publicity about the formerly secret operation that brought them here could jeopardize continued emigration from the Arab country.

The group of newcomers arrived in Israel via an unidentified European country one day after the government publicly acknowledged for the first time that 246 Yemenite Jews had secretly immigrated to Israel during the past year.

They are reported to be the first Yemenites to immigrate here since 1961.

Most of the ancient Jewish community of Yemen, numbering about 45,000, was brought to Israel in the early 1950s in the "Magic Carpet" airlift. The number of Jews estimated to remain there ranges from 900 to 1,500.

An unusually large number of reporters, local and foreign, were on hand Thursday to cover the arrival of the newcomers, despite concerns that the publicity could hurt efforts to bring over the remaining population.

Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the opposition Likud party, said reports on the Yemen operation should have been prevented "at any cost."

The military censor decided earlier in the week to lift the blanket of secrecy on the immigration, in part because the local Orthodox media had already printed articles on the matter, mostly relating to a controversy over the type of education given to the new immigrants.

Yemenite officials are reported to have said that they could not stop Jews from traveling to Israel if they did so via another country.

**ABORTED ARROW TEST FLIGHT SPARKS  
FEARS U.S. MIGHT WITHDRAW FUNDING****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, July 15 (JTA) -- A test flight of the Arrow anti-missile missile was aborted this week because of a malfunction, sparking fears that the United States might withdraw funding from the American-Israeli project.

The sixth Arrow test flight was aborted after a target missile veered off course and engineers canceled the launching of an Arrow meant to intercept the first one in midair.

Officials from Israel Aircraft Industries, prime contractor of the missile, stressed there was nothing wrong with the anti-missile missile itself, which was designed by Israel and financed largely by America.

The sea-launched target missile in the test was supposed to have been demolished by the Arrow, equipped with a high explosive warhead, at a height of about 12 miles above the Mediterranean Sea.

Two previous test flights of the Arrow missile were regarded as successful, but came after several unsuccessful trials.

The future of the Arrow project, one of the most ambitious and expensive to be carried out in Israel, has been called into question recently by U.S. Sen. Robert Byrd (D-W.V.), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, who has made statements criticizing the continuation of American funding of the project.

It is unlikely that Israel would be able to continue the project if U.S. aid were withdrawn.

Security sources here said they hoped the next Arrow test would be carried out within two or three months.

Wednesday's aborted trial was the latest in a planned series of 11 tests to be carried out by the end of 1995, when developmental research is projected to be completed and production started.

**MANNING LOSES FOURTH APPEAL  
AGAINST HIS EXTRADITION TO U.S.****By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, July 15 (JTA) -- Robert Manning, wanted in the United States on charges connected to a 1980 mail-bombing murder in California, has lost his fourth appeal to Israel's Supreme Court against his extradition to America.

Knesset member Yosef BaGad of the right-wing opposition Moledet party filed the appeal, seeking a delay of the extradition until after the Knesset's Law Committee could hold a hearing on the issue.

The justices rejected the petition, citing Israel's obligation to adhere to international commitments.

Manning, 41, took 20 sleeping pills Tuesday to avoid his scheduled extradition flight to the United States and was rushed from the airport to the hospital, where it was found that his general health was in order.

A family member later said he strongly suspected Manning had tried to commit suicide by taking the pills.

Others said he took the pills, smuggled into jail for him by friends, in order to appear ill on the day of the extradition and thereby foil the transfer into U.S. custody.

Last week, the Supreme Court ruled Manning should be extradited to the United States within two months.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:****ADDITION OF GINSBURG TO HIGH COURT  
MAY AFFECT OUTCOME OF RELIGION CASES**  
By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, July 15 (JTA) -- Jewish groups, left with mixed emotions in the wake of recent Supreme Court rulings on church-state issues, are hoping that Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg will play a constructive role if confirmed as a justice on the high court.

The Jewish community is traditionally concerned with two types of religion cases: so-called "free-exercise" cases, which deal primarily with religious groups' abilities to practice their religion unhindered by the government, and "Establishment Clause" cases, which concern the limits of government involvement with religion.

In the past term, which concluded last month, the court issued a number of major decisions on both types of cases.

Ginsburg, who sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals here in Washington, has not written widely on church-state issues.

But many in the Jewish community point hopefully to a 1984 dissent she wrote against the appeals court's decision not to review the case of S. Simcha Goldman, a Jewish member of the U.S. armed forces who was barred from wearing a yarmulka while in uniform.

While Ginsburg's dissent does not necessarily indicate that she would have supported Goldman had the court heard the case, some in the Jewish community feel it reflects an expansive view of the constitutional right to practice religion freely.

But most Jewish experts say they have little sense of where Ginsburg might wind up when it comes to Establishment Clause cases dealing with the extent of church-state "entanglement" permitted by the Constitution.

Many feel she would be an improvement over the man she is slated to replace, Justice Byron White, who was often at odds with much of the Jewish community on church-state issues.

Overall, there is no consensus among Jewish experts about the direction the court is heading on matters relating to the separation of church and state.

Often, Orthodox groups take a different position on these cases from other Jewish organizations, but this year, even the non-Orthodox Jewish groups differed among themselves over some of the cases before the court.

**Pleased With Souter Dissent**

But when it comes to the free exercise of religion, Jewish groups and many other religious groups are solidly in accord.

Since 1990, much of the religious community has been battling to undo the effects of a Supreme Court decision that gave the government greater leeway in infringing on religious practices.

The 1990 decision, in *Employment Division vs. Smith*, upheld an Oregon law banning peyote, used by Native Americans in religious rituals.

Jewish groups were concerned that the ruling could give the government leeway to restrict such religious practices as kosher slaughter and the drinking of Kiddush wine by minors.

Along with others in the religious community, Jewish organizations have been actively pushing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a bill pending in Congress that is designed to circumvent the *Smith* ruling.

The Jewish community is disappointed that

the court, in a decision last month regarding animal sacrifice, reaffirmed the *Smith* ruling.

While the court's decision, in *Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye v. City of Hialeah, Fla.*, to strike down a city ordinance banning a Santeria church from engaging in animal sacrifice, was welcomed by Jewish groups, they had hoped the court would re-examine *Smith*.

But on the positive side, many Jewish groups were pleased that Justice David Souter, a Bush appointee, wrote a separate concurring opinion in the *Hialeah* case arguing that the court should reconsider *Smith*.

On the Establishment Clause side, Jewish groups were split on both of the major cases decided this term. In one, the court allowed a deaf parochial student to have a publicly funded sign language interpreter, and in another, the court said an evangelical group must be allowed to use public school facilities after hours if that same access is given to secular groups.

While some Jewish groups saw these decisions as removing undue restrictions on religious institutions or individuals, others saw them as eroding the constitutional wall separating church and state.

**'Lemon Test' Survived**

Perhaps the most important Establishment Clause case this past term was one the justices chose not to hear, *Jones vs. Clear Creek Independent School District*, involving student-led prayer at public school graduation ceremonies.

Without comment, the court let stand a lower court decision allowing the student-led prayer under certain circumstances, and many school districts are now seizing the opportunity to try to institute such prayer in their schools.

The decision not to take the case did not, in itself, constitute a Supreme Court endorsement of student-led school prayer, and the lower court ruling is only applicable in parts of the country bound by its decision.

But the Jewish community is, for the most part, opposed to this type of prayer and is concerned that the court's decision not to take the case will chip away at a previous court ruling the year before forbidding the recitation of such prayers at public school graduations by members of the clergy.

Beyond the specifics of the cases themselves, the Jewish groups had a major interest in a legal doctrine relating to the Establishment Clause.

Some feared that the doctrine, known as the "Lemon test," after the 1971 case *Lemon vs. Kurtzman*, was in danger of being overturned.

Most Jewish groups, with the exception of some Orthodox groups, back the Lemon test because it provides a strict standard for ensuring separation of church and state.

Orthodox groups, on the other hand, oppose the doctrine, contending that it has created a climate hostile to religion.

The Lemon test requires all government activity and law to meet three criteria: its principal purpose must be secular; its effect must neither enhance nor inhibit religion; it cannot involve excessive government entanglement with religion.

Some Lemon-test backers in the Jewish community expressed relief that in the course of this past term, the court had neither weakened nor obliterated the doctrine altogether. And they expressed hope that if and when Judge Ginsburg joins the court, she will add a voice to those counseling against such a move in the future.

# BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

## JEWS STILL SUSPICIOUS OF JACKSON, BUT HIS POPULARITY IS ON THE RISE

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, July 15 (JTA) -- As the Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke about black-Jewish relations before a gathering of B'nai B'rith members here this week, he received three standing ovations from the majority of the group.

Such warm applause would have been hard to imagine just a couple of years ago and was a clear sign that Jackson's concerted effort of late to mend fences with American Jews is showing results.

But along with the cheers, the audience had tough questions for Jackson, questions with a "prove-yourself" attitude -- about his views of an undivided Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, for example, or his opinion of controversial Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan.

Jackson has long been a provocative figure for the organized American Jewish community. Until recently, many Jews felt uncomfortable with him or distrusted him, recalling his 1984 reference to New York as "Hymietown." Some in the Jewish community still dislike him.

In the past few years, however, Jackson has sought to join forces with American Jews, noting the common problems they face with African Americans as minorities in the United States.

He has cultivated good relations with the Israeli Embassy here and has reached out to organized Jewish groups.

Throughout his speech Wednesday before the B'nai B'rith District 5 convention here, Jackson stressed the work he had done on behalf of Soviet Jews and, more recently, Syrian Jews. And he referred to his invitation, proffered by the Israeli government this past winter, to visit Israel sometime this year.

The main theme of his address was that blacks and Jews have an "obligation to turn to each other and not on each other" as they face anti-Semitism and racism.

### 'Fear Leads To Hatred'

He also offered an impassioned plea to Americans to do something immediately about the problems facing inner-city youth. Without such assistance, the current generation of deprived children will produce future generations of embittered and frustrated Americans, he said.

Jackson spoke of working together and "relieving the fears" of the inner city and the farm community, because, he said, "fear leads to hatred."

"It is not in our collective interest to leave anybody out of the tent of security," he said.

Repeating a point he has been making for years, Jackson said that paying preventively for prenatal care, Head Start programs and day care at this point would save a great deal of money down the road that would otherwise be spent on welfare and jail terms.

Blacks and Jews, Jackson said, have a great deal in common, having been the targets of racism and bigotry.

"We've both stood in the shadows of burning crosses," he said. "Our empowerment is your empowerment. We rise and fall together."

Jackson pointed to the recent controversy over Justice Department nominee Lani Guinier as an example of how the Jewish and African American communities acted in a mature fashion, con-

taining rumors that could have ruptured the delicate relationship between the two groups.

When Jackson heard reports that Jewish groups had been "coming after" Guinier, who had been nominated to head the department's civil rights division, he called African American and Jewish leaders and "found such was not the case."

Some Jewish groups had raised initial concerns about the Guinier nomination but were waiting to meet with the nominee before announcing their official positions on the issue.

## ITALY ARRESTS RIGHT-WING EXTREMIST FOR RACISM, REVIVING FASCIST PARTY

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, July 15 (JTA) -- One of Italy's most notorious right-wing extremists was arrested this week on charges of racism and the reconstruction of the Fascist Party.

Police arrested Franco Freda, 52, on Monday near his summer home in southern Italy, on the order of magistrates from the northern city of Verona.

Freda, a longtime ultra-rightist militant, was implicated in various acts of terrorism in Italy over the past 25 years and served a 12-year jail term for subversive activities.

He was previously charged with involvement in the 1969 terrorist bombing of a bank in Milan, but after a long series of trials and appeals he was formally acquitted in 1985.

The bombing, in which 16 people died and 87 were injured, was the first major terrorist action in the wave of right- and left-wing terrorist attacks that swept Italy in the 1970s.

The charges leading to his arrest Monday related to Freda's founding two years ago of a far-right group called the Fronte Nazionale, or National Front. Four of his associates were also arrested on similar charges.

According to the charges, the National Front spreads racism and promotes "the deeds, exponents and methods of fascism and Nazism, including through public demonstrations of a racist character."

"We have proof of such activity by this organization," magistrate Guido Papalia told reporters. "It is potentially a very dangerous organization."

"At the moment," he said, "we have arrested the leaders. The proof is clear: They glorified Nazism, violence as a means of political struggle and racist propaganda."

He said, however, that so far there was no proof linking the group to any specific act of violence or racism.

Police said the arrests came after a year of investigation and were made partly because there was fear the group might cross from ideology to action.

The National Front is an ultra-right fringe group with about a hundred members, headquartered in Milan.

Its symbol resembles half a swastika and it has a program which, among other things, advocates a complete ban on Third World immigrants and protection of the "European race."

Police said they infiltrated the group and secretly photographed ritual annual meetings at a restaurant on Lake Garda, near Verona, at which participants waved swastika banners, gave the Nazi salute and sang nationalistic anthems around a bonfire.