

**DINITZ LAWYER ACCUSED OF TRYING
TO INTERFERE WITH POLICE INQUIRY**
By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Israel's top police official has accused Simcha Dinitz's attorney of trying to interfere with the ongoing investigation into the Jewish Agency chairman's alleged financial improprieties.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, in an interview with Israel Radio, said attorney Amnon Goldenberg had called him to ask that the police hand the case over to state prosecutors without recommending whether Dinitz should be indicted for misuse of Jewish Agency funds.

A recommendation regarding an indictment is routine police procedure, although it is not binding on prosecutors.

Shahal said that another close associate of Dinitz had also tried to affect the police investigation, but he provided no names.

"I made it clear it would be unacceptable to deal with this case differently than others," Shahal said on the radio. "The police must conduct investigations professionally, without political interference."

The allegations against Dinitz are of deep concern to leaders of the Jewish fund-raising campaigns in North America, because the Jewish Agency is the primary recipient of the contributions they channel to Israel.

Dinitz has repeatedly denied claims that the investigation has had an adverse affect on contributions to the United Jewish Appeal and Keren Hayesod campaigns.

An Eye On Aug. 31 Meeting?

But in an indication of concern, the Jewish Agency Board of Governors has appointed a senior advisory committee to monitor the impact of the affair on fund-raising efforts. The committee is charged with making a recommendation by the end of this month as to a course of action on the Dinitz affair.

The Jewish Agency's executive committee is scheduled to discuss the advisory committee's recommendation at an Aug. 31 session, and some expect the meeting to result in a vote of no confidence in Dinitz.

Sources say Dinitz wants to avoid having a police recommendation for his indictment announced prior to the Aug. 31 meeting.

But Dinitz has disavowed knowledge of any efforts to interfere with the case.

"Any request to stop or interfere with the investigation was unknown to me," he said in a prepared statement. "I have fully supported the police inquiry throughout."

Meanwhile, Dinitz is continuing to dismiss charges that the affair has harmed fund-raising efforts. In an interview last week with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Dinitz said he had been "flooded with hundreds of letters" of support, including "scores from the biggest contributors."

But in a strong indication of concern from the fund-raising community, the Jewish Federation of the North Shore, in Marblehead, Mass., has publicly and formally demanded that Dinitz take a leave of absence while the police investigation of his alleged financial misdeeds continues.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
AS THE DEPORTEES PREPARE TO RETURN,
PALESTINIAN MODERATES VOICE CONCERN**
By Gil Sedan

HEBRON, West Bank, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- The beds are made, the rooms are nice and tidy -- everything is ready for the return of Nabil Na'im a-Natshe.

Natshe, 35, a father of five, shares with his father, Na'im, a huge cement import and money-exchange business. Permanent address: Hebron. Temporary address: Marj a-Zuhur, southern Lebanon, a barren stretch of land where nearly 400 Palestinian deportees are now encamped.

Eight months ago, Nabil was deported to Lebanon along with 414 other Palestinians. Most were members of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, expelled following a series of murderous attacks by Muslim extremists within Israel.

The deportations produced a worldwide outcry against what was seen as an unduly harsh measure. In the wake of American pressure, Israel agreed to cut in half the period of expulsion, which had previously been set at a maximum of two years.

Under the terms of an accord that the Israeli government and the deportees reached Aug. 15, a first group of some 190 deportees are to arrive here in mid-September.

Nabil Natshe will probably be among them. He had never been arrested before and, according to his parents, was never associated with any political organization.

Bassem Id, an Arab human rights activist who works for the human rights organization B'Tselem, visited Marj a-Zuhur last winter. He interviewed Natshe and heard from him what he heard from most other deportees: They did not know why they had been deported.

"Soldiers came to my house and said they were taking me for just a few minutes of interrogation. After three days, I was on the bus to Lebanon," Natshe told Id.

Link To Moslem Brotherhood

Israel had never said that the deportees were directly involved in any terrorist activities. The deportees -- who included doctors, lawyers and teachers -- were described by the government as comprising the financial, legal and intellectual infrastructure that enabled the outlawed Hamas movement to operate.

Some of them were described as the people who supplied the funds, others as those who stirred up support and brought in recruits.

"None of us are Hamas," Dr. Abdul Aziz al-Rantisi, the spokesman for the deportees, said in a telephone interview from Lebanon. "We are all innocent."

The latter part of the statement is disputable, since many of the deportees were expelled straight from their prison cells. But the first part, that none of the deportees is a member of Hamas, may be truer than one would expect -- and yet at the same time untrue.

This is because Hamas is a branch of the worldwide Moslem Brotherhood movement.

Hamas declared its links to the Moslem Brotherhood in the second article of its Islamic

Covenant, which was published in Gaza five years ago at the outset of the intifada.

The Moslem Brotherhood, founded in Egypt at the turn of the century, has traditionally been divided between those who push for an armed struggle against non-believers and those more moderate elements more concerned with creating improved conditions for the Muslim community.

This internal debate continues to be waged. Sometimes the moderates have the upper hand; sometimes the extremists call the shots -- or pull the knives.

Sheik Taisir Tamimi, a religious judge at the Hebron religious court, was asked this week whether he could envision peaceful coexistence between an independent Palestinian state and a Jewish state. He replied with a quote from the Islamic Covenant: "Our aim is to restore the land to its true owners."

All the land, he explained. But he was polite enough to suggest that Jews could live there safely under Islamic rule, "as they had done in their Golden Era in Spain."

Arafat In Weakened Position

Israelis are not alone in their apprehensions over the imminent return of the Hamas infrastructure. Many Palestinians share their concerns, including many Palestine Liberation Organization activists in the administered territories.

The deportees will return to the territories at a time when the PLO and its supporters are facing a deep ideological and financial crisis.

On the ideological level, the Palestinian organization is torn by a deep internal debate over whether PLO leader Yasir Arafat is steering the peace process in the right direction.

Two leading members of the PLO executive committee -- Mahmoud Darwis, a poet and a close adviser to Arafat, and Shafik al-Hout, a PLO representative in Lebanon -- have resigned in protest over what they see as Arafat's "moderate" policy toward Israel.

In addition to ideological disputes, Arafat is facing the gravest financial crisis the organization has ever known.

The PLO is now considering the idea of selling real estate it controls throughout the world to pay the salaries of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who are dependent on the PLO for their daily living -- and these include doctors, teachers and journalists.

From a financial standpoint alone, prospects for the PLO do not look good in its ongoing competition with Hamas. Hamas has far fewer mouths to feed. Those who do depend on Hamas need not worry.

Given Hamas' relative financial strength -- as well as its political ideology, which provides simple, uncompromising answers -- Palestinian moderates have a serious problem.

The Hamas and quasi-Hamas deportees not only threaten Israel. They also threaten the society envisioned by Palestinian moderates -- a heterogeneous, secular community governed by democratic principles.

Islamic fundamentalists pose a threat in Egypt, where last week they attempted to assassinate Interior Minister Hassan al-Alfi. They pose a threat in Jordan, where, as King Hussein charged this week, fundamentalist elements there tried to assassinate him two months ago.

They also pose a threat in Israel -- to Israelis and moderate, democratically inclined Palestinians alike.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION POLICY WILL BE EASED FOR PALESTINIANS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- The Israeli government has announced policy changes that will enable increased numbers of Palestinians to return to their homes in the administered territories.

As a result of the policy change, Palestinians will have greater ease in meeting the criteria needed to obtain family reunification permits.

The changes came as a result of petitions filed by Arab residents in the territories to the High Court of Justice.

The appellants had wanted the court to intervene on their behalf to compel the state to allow the return of their relatives to the territories.

The government also attributed the new, liberalized family reunification policy to discussions during the round of bilateral peace negotiations that ended in Washington on July 1.

The new policy will allow the return of some 6,000 Palestinians to their homes in the territories, according to government estimates.

Under the new criteria, permanent resident status will be granted to spouses of residents of the territories and their children who, during the past three years, lived here under temporary visas that had to be renewed every six months.

In another liberalization of its policy, the government will double the number of family reunification permits issued each year, from 1,000 to 2,000.

Until now, marital ties were not a sufficient prerequisite for permanent resident status.

Under the new policy, most of the quotas established for family reunifications will be filled by spouses of current residents in the territories.

The Cabinet agreed this week on another measure that is designed to improve the quality of life in the territories.

It decided on an across-the-board cut of 0.27 percent in the government budget. The monies saved will be used to fund the employment of 15,000 laborers in the Gaza Strip.

This decision is in line with the continued policy of trying to supply Arab laborers with work opportunities within the territories, thus cutting down the number of permits given to those who are seeking work in Israel proper.

Of the approximately 120,000 laborers who used to work in Israel before a general closure of the territories was declared last March, fewer than half have returned to their workplaces within Israel.

IAI GETS PENTAGON CONTRACT FOR DRONES

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Israel Aircraft Industries has been awarded part of a \$21 million Pentagon contract to provide training and support systems for unmanned surveillance airplanes.

The Short Range Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, as the drone is officially known, is equipped with video cameras and other reconnaissance devices that enable the plane to fly into dangerous situations and gather data at no human risk.

The contract was signed in the United States last week.

The unmanned vehicle was described by a spokesman for TRW, an American defense manufacturer which shares in the contract with IAI, as "the future in unmanned aerial vehicles."

MANDELA GETS A STANDING OVATION AT SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH CONCLAVE

By Suzanne Belling

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- African National Congress President Nelson Mandela was greeted with a standing ovation when he delivered the keynote address at the 37th national congress of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

The warm welcome he received when he appeared before the gathering here last weekend was viewed as a moment of reconciliation by many who had repeatedly criticized Mandela's much-publicized embrace of Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat shortly after the ANC president's release from prison in 1990.

Amid the deafening applause from the hundreds of Jewish delegates gathered to hear his remarks, Mandela affectionately embraced Israel's ambassador to South Africa, Alon Liel -- and then had another warm hug for the South African Zionist Federation's chairman, Abe Abrahamson.

Tickets to hear Mandela's address were gone within an hour or two of when they went on sale, and hundreds had to be turned away. And when the event began, the large ballroom at the five-star Carlton Hotel could not accommodate all the guests, who overflowed into adjacent corridors.

"I want to state in the most unequivocal terms that the African National Congress has stood firm against anti-Semitism, as it has stood firmly against all other forms of racism," Mandela told the gathering.

"It is our belief that all citizens should be protected against all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism. Our track record on this score is there for anyone to examine," he said.

Discusses Ties With PLO

Mandela said that the ANC supports the granting of basic civil liberties to all citizens. He also underscored his party's determination to maintain freedom of religion and the separation between church and state.

"The suggestion that an ANC-led government could ever indulge in or connive at anti-Semitism is a scandalous slander inspired either by sheer ignorance or malice," he said.

Mandela acknowledged that the ANC's relations with the PLO have been of concern to Jews in South Africa and abroad; he said the ANC had discussed the matter with the American Jewish Committee.

"As a movement we recognize the legitimacy of Palestinian nationalism just as we recognize the legitimacy of Zionism as Jewish nationalism. We insist on the right of the State of Israel to exist within secure borders but, with equal vigor, (we) support the Palestinian right to self-determination," he said.

"We are gratified to see that new possibilities of resolving the issue through negotiation have arisen since the election of a new government in Israel. We wish to encourage the process and, if we have the opportunity, to assist."

But Mandela said the ANC was "extremely unhappy about military cooperation between the State of Israel and the apartheid regime" here.

"The refusal of Israel, over many years, to honor its international obligations to isolate the apartheid regime did influence our attitude toward that government," Mandela said.

He urged the Jewish community, in its relationship with the ANC, to focus on shared goals in South Africa.

ANTI-SEMITIC TRACTS ABOUND IN PARIS, COPIES OF 'PROTOCOLS' HIT THE SCHOOLS

By Lisa Glazer

PARIS, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Thousands of anti-Semitic pamphlets titled "The Jewish Peril" were recently distributed in and around Paris, prompting protests from the League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism and an investigation by French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua.

The postcard-sized pamphlets feature a picture of a spider with a human face and a huge, hooked nose grasping the Earth between its hairy legs. Inside is a list of about 50 prominent French citizens who are purported to be "children of Israel" trying to destroy France.

The pamphlets have appeared in mailboxes in the Paris neighborhood of St. Germain as well as the suburbs of Levallois and Clichy on numerous occasions during the past four months. Many of them surfaced July 16, when France commemorated for the first time the roundup of nearly 13,000 Jews who were later sent to Auschwitz.

The League against Racism and Anti-Semitism has called on the government here "to do everything possible to find those responsible" for the pamphlets.

Pasqua responded last week by condemning the leaflets and initiating a police investigation.

Experts say the pamphlets could be the work of either right-wing extremists or Muslim fundamentalists.

The pamphlet reproduces the cover of a 1942 edition of the classic anti-Semitic text "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," in which a spider caricature was drawn by pseudo-historian and collaborator Henry Coston.

Those listed in the pamphlet as "children of Israel" include Danielle Mitterrand, the wife of the president; the late Prime Minister Pierre Berégovoy; and the mayor of Levallois, Patrick Balkany, who has formally lodged a complaint in court.

References To Crematoria

In addition, a recent article in the French newspaper Liberation detailed how some Muslim schoolgirls in the Parisian suburb of Nanterre are secretly reading yellowed copies of "The Protocols," which was banned in France in 1990.

An English-language teacher at the Joliot-Curie School said that after finishing a lesson about the city of New York, her students, many of whom are strict Muslims, asked her if there are a lot of Jews in New York and if Jews there have a lot of power. They then asked her if she was Jewish.

"I was astounded by their question," the teacher said. "When I told them I wasn't Jewish, I saw they had an air of relief on their faces. That was terrible. It was then that they told me about that horrible book ('The Protocols') and proposed that I read it," she said.

At the same school, Liberation reported, a Jewish student was knocked over at the exit door the day after the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting and prayer. And a newspaper created by some students included the lines, "present yourself to the crematorium oven," which were cut out and sent to a teacher with a Jewish-sounding name.

The school's directors responded by describing these actions as "intolerable" and said the students responsible would be disciplined. However, the culprits have not been identified.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

FEDERATIONS, SYNAGOGUES JOIN FORCES, BREAK TABOOS TO FIGHT INTERMARRIAGE

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- As Jewish federations begin to confront the issue of intermarriage, they are increasingly entering a mixed marriage of their own.

They are getting into bed with synagogues.

Cooperation between federations and synagogues should hardly seem unusual, unless one realizes that the two sets of institutions have rarely worked together in the past.

They have long been separated by a wall, akin to that keeping apart church and state in American constitutional ideology.

Now, for a variety of reasons, the wall is starting to crumble.

"Federations must provide the resources that congregations need to 'reinvent' themselves to meet the challenges of the very complex Jewish world revealed in the 1990 population survey," said Barry Shrage, the professional president of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston.

Shrage was referring to the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey, which reported that more than half of all Jews who married since 1985 married a non-Jew.

To bolster this new approach, the Boston federation will help area synagogues expand their programming for young families.

In San Diego, a coordinator for youth activities -- including synagogue youth groups -- is being funded by the federation.

In both Cleveland and Detroit, a new central organization to oversee the city's Jewish educational activities will have a board made up of representatives of both the federation and the synagogues, as well as of the area's Jewish schools.

As Jewish identity rises to the top of the agendas of federations across the country, this new-found cooperation marks a trend that is likely to continue.

Working In A Vacuum

"We have to see federations relating to synagogues in a much different way than in the past. Everyone has attempted to make their contribution to the community, but somewhat in a vacuum," said Marvin Lender, chairman of the Commission on Jewish Identity and Continuity.

The commission, convened by the Council of Jewish Federations, embodies the new relationship. It includes representatives of the synagogue movements, as well as more traditional federation constituencies.

The commission held its first steering committee meeting in early August and is scheduled to convene formally in the fall.

"This is a long-overdue recognition that synagogues and federations really have much more in common in terms of their concerns vis-a-vis Jewish life than they have differences," said Jonathan Woocher, executive vice president of the Jewish Education Service of North America and a primary consultant to the Commission on Jewish Identity and Continuity.

Both federations and synagogues are beginning to recognize that they need each other, because for both institutions, the old ways are no longer working.

Federations need the loyalty and outreach

potential of the synagogues, and the religious institutions need the enormous fund-raising capabilities of the communal organizations.

Federations were founded at the beginning of this century to advance the goals of social welfare and acculturation to America. Created largely by the established, wealthy and assimilated Jewish community of German origin, the synagogue-going, traditional, poorer Jews arriving from Eastern Europe were seen as objects of benevolence -- not as partners.

Over time, the concern for Jewish survival began to dominate the federations' agenda, shifting resources away from general philanthropy to specifically Jewish causes like Israel and the rescue of Soviet Jewry.

Now, the goal of Jewish survival has taken on a new meaning and is being applied to the synagogue-linked area of Jewish identity.

Part of the synagogues' attraction for federations flows from the findings of recent surveys that despite efforts by federations to be seen as the central address of the Jewish community, they have failed to win the soul of American Jewry.

Attachment To Synagogue Over Federation

In an oft-cited finding by demographer Steven M. Cohen, 36 percent of American Jews feel attached to their synagogues, versus 9 percent who feel that way toward their federation.

Another finding that has pushed federation leaders to reach out to synagogues is that most of those seen as "unaffiliated" with Jewish life are, in fact, past or future synagogue members.

For their part, synagogues have long felt underfunded, unable to secure the allegiance of those who knock on their doors.

The convergence of these concerns is accelerating a re-evaluation of the once-widespread notion that religion has as little place in the philanthropic welfare and social work of the Jewish federations as it does in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Representing themselves as the central organization of the Jewish community, the federations set up and funded secular organizations, such as Jewish community centers and boards of family services, which they funded directly and which were directly accountable to them.

Now, "the whole notion of community is being redefined," said Rabbi Perry Rank, of Temple Beth Ahm in Springfield, N.J.

"It used to be that community was defined on a federation level as non-denominational. Now it's being defined as all of those who are non-denominational, and the denominations," said Rank, a Conservative rabbi.

Rank's synagogue has participated, with the two others in Springfield, in a program called Shalom Springfield, in which the federation brings programs into the synagogues.

Rabbi Avis Miller, associate rabbi of the Conservative Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, has a wish list for federation support that is fairly simple: money to support personnel and material for effective outreach programs.

For the Jewish community to adopt new ways that work, "it will be with all of us changing," said Carl Sheingold, an assistant executive vice president at the Council of Jewish Federations, speaking about synagogue-federation relations at a recent conference sponsored by the Wilstein Institute of Jewish Policy Studies.

"What won't work is saying, I'm OK, you have to change," he said.