

**LIBERALS' UPSET VICTORY IN CANADA IS LITTLE DISAPPOINTMENT TO JEWS**By **Bram D. Eisenthal**

MONTREAL, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Canadian Jews watched the stunning defeat of the Conservative Party in the country's general elections this week with more satisfaction than regret.

Although the Conservative record vis-a-vis Jewish issues was a positive one, Jews, like the rest of the country's voters, were none too pleased with the party's overall performance in recent years.

In the final election results, the Liberal Party garnered a historic victory, winning 178 of the 295 seats in the House of Commons, the lower house of Canada's Parliament. The Liberals, led by Jean Chretien, garnered 42 percent of the vote.

The target of a massive countrywide protest vote spurred by national discontent over the economy, the Conservatives held onto only two seats nationwide -- a shocking showing that denies them even the status of a national party, which requires a minimum of 12 seats in the House of Commons.

Even Conservative Party leader Kim Campbell, the first woman to hold the prime ministerial post, lost her parliamentary seat to a Liberal after only 138 days as the country's leader.

This marks the first time since the establishment of the Canadian confederation in 1867 that the Conservatives will not form either the government or the official opposition.

When the last Parliament was dissolved, the Conservatives held 152 seats and the Liberals 79, with the balance split among lesser parties, which now find themselves major players.

Chretien, a finance and justice minister in the government of former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, is generally viewed favorably by Canadian Jews. Their most notable difference of opinion in recent years came in 1991, when Chretien made an impassioned plea to then Prime Minister Brian Mulroney not to commit Canadian troops to the Persian Gulf.

**Shares Concerns Of The Community**

Several senior Jewish Liberals in Parliament are expected to be awarded Cabinet posts, among them former opposition leader Herb Gray.

Regarding Israel, the Liberals have historically towed the line set by the late Lester Pearson, the former prime minister who helped establish a United Nations peacekeeping force there.

Canada has usually voted with the U.N. majority on important Israel-related resolutions, although the government has at times showed a coldness toward Israel that Jews found offensive.

Irving Abella, national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, said of the election results, "Though we regret the defeat of several good friends of the community, we are pleased that the new government shares the concerns expressed by the Jewish community on a variety of issues."

"During the campaign, we stressed the importance of preserving multiculturalism, stamping out racism and anti-Semitism, bringing Nazi war criminals to justice, weeding out racists in the military and other concerns. We have every

confidence that Mr. Chretien's government will deal with these matters," said Abella.

B'nai Brith Canada sent a letter of congratulations to Chretien, which noted that the organization "has enjoyed an extensive and productive relationship with the Liberal Party and its elected members over many years.

"We join with you and with the many Canadians in undertaking a commitment to fortify our society and to affirm its central values," the statement said.

Thomas Hecht, chairman of the Canada-Israel Committee's Quebec region, said he was optimistic about the election results.

"I look forward to working with all members of the new House on issues affecting the Jewish community and Israel. We have friends on both sides of the House," he said.

**'Lots Of Jews Around Him'**

Montreal Rabbi Reuben Poupko was satisfied with the results, although he said that "many Jews are disturbed by the fractionalization of the country."

Poupko pointed out that Chretien has "lots of Jews around him. Eddy Goldenberg is a close adviser, David Sussman is managing his transition team and Les Scheininger (immediate past national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress) has close contacts with the Liberals as well."

In Montreal, a traditional Liberal stronghold for the Jewish community, Jewish votes went solidly Liberal. Quebec, which had only nine Liberal Parliament members previously, has now placed 18 in the province.

Even Gerry Weiner, the lone Jewish Cabinet minister in the outgoing government, lost his seat of Pierrefonds-Dollard to Liberal candidate Gerard Patry. And Weiner's son Mark failed in his bid to oust Liberal incumbent Shirley Maheu in St. Laurent.

Neil Drabkin, formerly the elder Weiner's senior policy adviser in the Ministry of Multiculturalism and Citizenship, came in third in Mount Royal, a Liberal stronghold since 1940.

Since 1984, the Conservatives had swept the nation in two federal elections under Mulroney. But the former prime minister's unpopularity before he retired last spring, as well as his party's poor record on the economy, resulted in the most massive protest vote in Canada's history.

Some 1.6 million Canadians -- more than 11 percent of the working population -- are unemployed.

The right-wing populist Reform Party, a regional party under the leadership of Preston Manning, scored well in the elections, winning 52 seats, most of them in western Canada.

The party has been the subject of controversy in recent months, with accusations of racial intolerance hurled at several of its members. The party was further discredited when Michael Lublin, an Orthodox Jew from Ontario who was one of the party's rising stars, resigned.

Manning, who easily won a seat in the House of Commons over his Liberal opponent, has himself been accused of being racist, although he removed a Toronto candidate from the Reform slate in recent weeks for claiming that immigrants would bring "death and destruction" to Canada.

## PALESTINIANS STEP UP DEMAND FOR RELEASE OF 1,000 PRISONERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization is demanding the immediate release from jail of an additional 1,000 Palestinian prisoners.

Arab rejectionists, meanwhile, are calling for stepped-up attacks against Israel.

The Palestinian demand for the release of additional prisoners came after Israel released more than 600 Palestinians on Monday in a move designed to build Palestinian support for the self-rule accord that Israel and the PLO signed Sept. 13.

The demand, according to Israel Army Radio, was put forward as talks between the two sides resumed Tuesday at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba.

In Israel and the territories, meanwhile, a relaxation of the six-month-old closure of the territories went into effect Tuesday.

Israeli checkpoints are now permitting Palestinian women -- as well as men under the age of 16 and older than 50 -- to enter Israel without permits.

A hard-line Palestinian faction, however, has called for redoubled efforts to "explode" the Israel-PLO accord.

George Habash, leader of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, called Tuesday for additional acts of terrorism against Israel. The PFLP is part of a 10-member Arab coalition pledged to destroy the Israeli-PLO peace process.

Speaking on Hezbollah Radio in Lebanon, Habash urged an increase in attacks on Israel, citing as an example to be emulated an abortive attempt to infiltrate Israel from the sea on Oct. 9.

In that incident, an Israeli patrol boat shot and killed a terrorist aboard a jet ski that was later found to be filled with weapons. The terrorist had been headed for the beach at Nahariya in an effort to attack Israeli vacationers.

Habash said in his broadcast that an increase in such attacks was clearly "the best way to explode" the Israel-PLO accord.

### None With 'Blood On Their Hands'

The third round of talks in Taba began with a private meeting between the two chief negotiators, Maj. Gen. Amnon Shahak, Israel's deputy chief of staff, and Nabil Sha'ath, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The delegates were scheduled to break into subcommittees that would deal with several issues: the formation of a Palestinian police force; determining the precise borders of the autonomous area, particularly in the West Bank town of Jericho, an area whose precise boundaries are being hotly contested; and the method for transferring authority to the Palestinians after the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

To underscore their concerns about the further release of prisoners, the Palestinians added a new member, Salim al-Zeri, to their delegation.

Zeri, a commander in Arafat's Al Fatah faction and Israel's longest-held prisoner, was released Oct. 19 after 23 years in an Israeli jail.

Zeri said he looked forward to a general release of Palestinian prisoners so that "every

home in the West Bank and Gaza should share in the joy of peace."

He said the prisoners released Monday were mainly youngsters and elderly men whose terms of imprisonment were close to completion.

Israeli sources have said Israel will discuss new criteria for release, but men "with blood on their hands" would not be released, at least for the present.

Significantly, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin refused on Monday, at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, to give an explicit commitment that this distinction would remain in effect permanently.

His refusal provoked a storm of criticism from members of the opposition, who said it implied that killers would shortly be out on the streets again as free men.

## '94 ISRAEL STATE BUDGET ANTICIPATES ECONOMIC GROWTH DUE TO PLO ACCORD

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Israel's 1994 state budget calls for increased spending on education and the infrastructure and lower tax rates for middle-income earners.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who presented the budget to the Knesset on Monday, said the government is looking forward to accelerated economic growth as a result of the Sept. 13 signing of the self-rule accord with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Shohat also cited Israel's improved standing in the international community following the historic signing as a factor in the anticipated economic growth of the country.

The budget was scheduled for a vote Wednesday before it is sent on for committee approval within the Knesset.

The final vote on the budget will take place before the end of 1993.

Shohat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin have won a pledge from the fervently religious Shas party to support the budget when it comes up for a vote.

Rabin and Shohat were also busy securing the backing of Labor Party Knesset members who had been threatening to withhold their votes because of their concern about unemployment and social policy.

On Tuesday, Shohat met with Abdel Wahab Darawsh, a leading Arab Knesset member, and promised to make good on government pledges to the Arab sector in return for the votes of the two Arab Knesset factions -- the Arab Democratic Party and the Communist-led Hadash -- that are aligned with the government but are not part of the governing coalition.

The overall state budget for next year will be approximately \$44.3 billion.

Major outlays called for in the budget include: \$11.7 billion for debt servicing and repayments; \$6 billion for defense spending; \$9.1 billion for social services; and \$5.6 billion for spending on domestic programs, which includes a \$700 million increase in spending on education.

Shohat predicted in his Knesset address that the country would face major economic changes as a result of the accord with the PLO.

He stressed the importance of "filling the agreement with economic content" and said the basic economic relationships between Israel and its Arab neighbors should change radically -- for the benefit of both sides.

## DECRYING STEREOTYPES AND BIAS, ISLAMIC-JEWISH DIALOGUE BEGINS

By Chris Leppek

Intermountain Jewish News

DENVER, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Saying that American Muslims and Jews are "tired of stereotypes, bigotry and caricatures, and we are tired of looking at each other at a distance," a Jewish leader began what many hope will be a long, fruitful dialogue between the two communities.

"In North America, Muslims and Jews have been like those ships in the night which pass one another, but who have never really met as vibrant and real peoples," said Rabbi A. James Rudin, director of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee.

Rudin's forum was a conference titled "Muslims and Jews in North America: Past, Present and Future," held Oct. 24-26 in Denver.

Kareem Abdallah, imam of the Mountain States Islamic Association, a mosque in Denver attended by blacks who have converted to traditional Islam, was also a keynote speaker at the forum.

The forum was sponsored by the AJCommittee and the University of Denver's Center for Islamic-Judaic Studies.

The budding dialogue between Muslims and Jews, the rabbi said, was made possible by two "objective realities" -- the fact of American religious freedom and the dawning prospects of Israeli-Palestinian peace.

It is, he said, an opportunity that both communities should grasp enthusiastically.

"I think we will be judged as irresponsible people if we do not seize the unique opportunity that is open before us," Rudin said in a keynote address. "Future generations of Muslims and Jews will judge us very harshly if we do not act now."

Rudin predicted that Muslim-Jewish relations would encounter vocal opponents in both camps.

"We have to be especially alert to the seductive and dangerous siren songs of those extremist voices in both communities," he said. "Although those extremists are few in number, they can easily take center stage."

The rabbi advised conferees to embark on fundamental discussions of the historical, theological and political differences -- and similarities -- between Muslims and Jews.

### Emphasis Should Be On Shattering Cliches

The emphasis, he said, should be on shattering and avoiding the many cliches with which Jews and Muslims have long regarded one another.

Abdallah said that while Jewish scripture and the Koran perceive Abraham in differing ways, both religions could find useful positive examples in the patriarchal figure.

"As we see him, Abraham-Ibrahim was not a Jew or a Muslim or a Christian," Abdallah said. "But he was an upright man, a man of a submissive nature to God, a man of a fair, just and honest character. This too can be a description of all three of these faiths."

Abdallah was speaking in place of Imam W. Deen Mohammed. Mohammed, the Chicago-based "Muslim American Spokesman for Human Salvation" and the son of Elijah Mohammed, founder of the Nation of Islam, did not attend the conference due to illness.

Speaking as a minority, both as a Muslim and an African American, Abdallah told Jewish conferees: "As minorities, having been oppressed

and unjustly treated, we can both understand Ibrahim's call for freedom, justice and fairness."

The imam suggested that cooperation between Jews and Black Muslims could serve as a role model for larger efforts to resist racism.

For Jews to successfully engage in dialogue with Black Muslims in particular, Abdallah said, they must free themselves of racism. Black Muslims, conversely, must resist the forces urging them to accept anti-Semitic thinking.

The ultimate challenge for Muslims and Jews, Rudin said, is whether it is "possible for Jews and Muslims to remain faithful to their own beliefs and to affirm, very positively, the spiritual validity of their neighbor who does not believe."

Asked by an audience member about the anti-Semitic comments of Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, Abdallah said Black Muslims have no control over which spokesmen the media decide to feature most prominently.

"There is a diversified approach to leadership within the African American community," he said, adding that leaders like Farrakhan appeal to a sense among many African Americans that Jews are simply a part of the oppressive white majority.

The Denver mosque does not adhere to the goals of the Nation of Islam.

A "lack of leadership" within the African American community, Abdallah said, helps foster black racism not only toward Jews but toward Asians and other minority groups.

Asked by the Intermountain Jewish News whether North American Jewish-Muslim dialogue could survive a failure of Middle Eastern peace efforts, Abdallah said, "I don't think it will fail; I think it will succeed.

"Look," he added, expressing a thought that might serve as a starting point for the nascent dialogue itself, "Muslims and Jews are not natural enemies. We're human beings and we share the same struggles as all human beings."

## DEMAND FOR NEW BANGKOK ROUTE PROMPTS EL AL TO DOUBLE CAPACITY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Demand has been so great for El Al's coming inaugural flight to Bangkok, Thailand, that the Israeli airline is doubling the number of seats available for the flight.

El Al spokespersons said the 224-seat Boeing 767s originally planned to ply the route are being replaced by 450-seat 747 Boeing jumbo jets.

Thailand has long been a favorite destination of Israeli tourists, particularly young people, who have traveled there through circuitous routes.

The new air route, which will begin on Dec. 9, travels via Bombay, India, another first-ever destination for the Israeli national airline.

The introductory cost of the Bangkok flight has been set at \$799 round trip for a group-inclusive tour, which is sold in Israel only and which requires a land arrangement. Business class costs an additional \$299 each way.

The round-trip excursion fare sold outside the country is \$999 to Bangkok.

There is a seven-day minimum, three-month maximum condition for the fare.

Cost for group-inclusive tours to Bombay is \$749 round trip purchased in Israel and also requires a land arrangement. Excursion fare to Bombay will be \$949 round trip. These fares are subject to government approval.

## FOR JEWISH KIDS HIDDEN BY GENTILES, ISRAEL VISIT IS JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Growing up in a small town in Poland, Margaret Temerson always felt that something was wrong, though she could not put her finger on it.

Her parents, a loving Catholic couple, were overprotective and secretive. They gave all they had to their only child -- everything but the truth.

It was not until the age of 26 that Temerson, now a 59-year-old journalist, learned that she was born Jewish and that her real parents had perished in the Holocaust.

Temerson is one of some 50 Polish Jewish survivors of the Holocaust, most of them hidden with Christians during the war, who visited Israel this week on a journey of self-discovery.

Now in their 50s and 60s, these Polish survivors were children when the war broke out. Virtually all owe their survival to a combination of many factors, including the help of Christians, who hid them from the Nazis.

Of the approximately 3.5 million Jews who lived in Poland before the war, only 5,000 to 10,000 remain.

The vast majority died during the Holocaust, and most of the remainder moved to Israel, the United States and other countries.

According to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which funds cultural and social-service programs for the mostly aged Jewish community of Warsaw, the number of Jews could be much higher.

"Until recently, Jews in Poland were unwilling or afraid to reveal their true identities," explained Zvi Feine, JDC's deputy director for Polish affairs.

"With the decline of communism, and the resulting increase in religious tolerance, many people with Jewish roots are making their presence known to us," Feine said.

Two years ago, Jakob Gutenbaum, a child survivor who spent much of the war in concentration camps, decided to create the Association of Holocaust Children in Poland. At its inception the group had 20 members; today it has 300.

### Great Need To Identify With Other Jews

"There is a great need for Polish Jews to identify with other Jews," said the 63-year-old Warsaw resident.

"There is a sense of closeness that comes from having shared the same experiences. We can speak frankly with each other about the past, and discuss things we can't even discuss with our own families," Gutenbaum said.

With assistance from the Joint and Amcha, an Israeli group devoted to the emotional well-being of Holocaust survivors, the organization is also trying to address the survivors' many emotional problems.

"Child survivors suffer from many psychological problems, such as fear of separation and extreme loneliness," said Gutenbaum.

"In many places around the world, survivors attend support groups and receive psychological counseling for themselves and their children, but this is only now beginning to take place in Poland," he said.

Unlike the vast majority of Holocaust survivors worldwide, who have always identified themselves as Jewish, many of the Polish sur-

vivors grew up believing they were Christians. Those who were raised in gentile homes either hid their Jewishness or learned only much later that they were Jewish, said Gutenbaum.

"Either way, the truth created a profound identity crisis," he said.

The trip to Israel, which cost the participants an average of four to six months' salary, "went a long way toward helping us cope with the past and who we are today," said Allerhand Leszek, a 62-year-old physician, during a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial.

The only Jew in his town, Leszek said he feels "isolated" from other Jews, and the trip to Israel "underscored my pride in being Jewish."

He and his mother survived the war by constantly moving from one place to another. "No one wanted to hide me because I was a boy, but my mother was very blonde, so people took us in.

### 'Poles Never Let You Forget You're Jewish'

"I remember hiding in the woods, in a church, in a cemetery. Once, I hid under the bed of a cousin's gentile wife. In retrospect, I think she must have been a prostitute, since German soldiers and others were always visiting the apartment," he recalled.

"They were on the bed, while I hid underneath," he said with a laugh.

Though never afraid to hide his Jewishness, Leszek said, "Poles never let you forget you are Jewish, even if you want to forget yourself. There is still a lot of anti-Semitism in Poland."

Thirty years after discovering her Jewish roots, Temerson is still trying to come to terms with her multifaceted identity.

Born in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1939, Temerson was nearly 3 when her Jewish parents, sensing that death was imminent, placed her in the care of a childless Catholic couple living outside the ghetto.

When her Jewish parents perished in the Holocaust, the Catholic family legally adopted Temerson and raised her as their own daughter.

She recalled, "My parents never let on that I was Jewish and insisted that no one else reveal the truth. When some members of my Jewish family found me after the war, my adopted mother pleaded with them to keep the secret.

"They agreed, and in return my adopted mother allowed me to keep in close contact with what she called 'our friends' through letters and visits," Temerson said. But there were still a lot of unanswered questions, and they preyed on Temerson's mind to such an extent that she finally sought some answers.

"I once asked my mother why there were no pictures of me as a baby, why I had no birth certificate. These were questions she simply couldn't answer. And slowly, very slowly, I began to ask my parents' friends," Temerson related.

"One day, when I was 26, they just couldn't lie anymore, so they told me the truth."

Shocked as she was by the news of her adoption and Jewish roots, Temerson said she has no regrets.

"My adopted parents were the best, kindest parents a child could have, and I was lucky to have them.

"My mother died just six months ago, and it is very hard," she said. "But still, it is important to know the whole truth."

The trip to Israel, she admitted, "has opened some difficult doors. But I am determined to walk through them and see what's inside."