

# **TEDDY KOLLEK SAID TO LOSE BID FOR 7TH TERM AS JERUSALEM MAYOR** **By David Landau and Michele Chabin**

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- After serving nearly three decades as Jerusalem's mayor, Teddy Kollek has apparently lost his seventh bid for the post to the Likud party's Ehud Olmert.

The 82-year-old Kollek, mayor here since 1965, headed the Labor-affiliated "One Jerusalem" faction.

His loss to Olmert was announced by Israel Television, which based its prediction on exit polls it had conducted.

The prediction was announced at 10 p.m. Tuesday, as voting stations closed here and around the country, concluding the day's country-wide municipal elections.

In Tel Aviv, exit polls indicated the mayor's race between Likud's Ronni Milo and Labor's Avigdor Kahalani was too close to call. Both candidates were waiting nervously Tuesday night for the official results.

In Haifa, Labor's Amram Mitzna won the mayoral race. And in Beersheba, Yitzhak Rager of Likud was the winner. Neither result came as a surprise to political observers.

Here in Jerusalem, the exit poll indicated that Olmert had garnered 55 percent of the vote. Kollek received 41 percent, with the remaining votes going to a candidate fielded by the fervent Orthodox Shas party.

Olmert, 48, was supported by the National Religious Party and the United Torah Judaism Front, whose candidate withdrew from the race Monday night.

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram, a longtime Labor Party politician, said it was clear Kollek would lose once those two religious parties had thrown their support to Olmert.

## **Many Chose To Stay Home**

All in all Tuesday, Jerusalemites appear to have greeted the mayoral election with less enthusiasm than in previous years.

Asked to choose between Kollek and Olmert, many people chose to stay home. Bad weather -- and apathy -- kept many of the city's 379,000 registered voters away from the polls.

Among those who did vote, in polling stations in both eastern and western Jerusalem, few expressed enthusiasm for either candidate.

"No one can figure out who to vote for," said a young computer programmer, who was trying to account for the poor voter turnout.

"Kollek ran the worst campaign of his life, while Olmert's was very professional," he said. "On the other hand, everyone is familiar with Teddy, but Olmert is an unknown."

"I voted for Teddy, but mostly for reasons of nostalgia," a nursery school teacher said as she was leaving a voting station in the neighborhood of Baka. "He's done a good job in the past, and I think he'll be better than Olmert."

Shoshana, an Orthodox woman from the Katamon neighborhood, said she voted for Olmert "because Teddy is no friend of religious people. He seems to go out of his way to alienate the haredim and bends over backwards for the Arabs."

Yossi, 18, a first-time voter, expressed disappointment in the choice of candidates.

"Teddy was great in his prime, but he's too old now. I hear that he's not really running the city, anyway," he said.

"And Olmert's campaign was really sleazy and underhanded, and I don't really want a guy like that for our next mayor. In the end, I voted for Olmert by default," said Yossi.

There were those, however, who fully supported the respective candidates.

Hammad, an Arab from the eastern Jerusalem village of Isawiya, said he came out to vote despite a call by Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat asking Arabs to boycott the elections.

"I heard something about us not voting, but I thought it was a mistake," said Hammad, a grocery store clerk. "It's important for Arabs to vote for Kollek because Olmert is a right-winger. I've voted for Kollek in the past and that's how I voted this year, too."

Among those polled informally, it was Sarit, a college student, who expressed the majority opinion. "There's no one to vote for," she said with a shrug, "so I didn't vote."

## **IN DISPUTE OVER ISRAELI TROOPS, PALESTINIANS SUSPEND TABA TALKS** **By Cynthia Mann**

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- Palestinian negotiators have suspended the autonomy implementation talks in Taba to protest Israel's position on the withdrawal of its troops from the Gaza Strip.

The talks, which began Oct. 13, when the self-rule accord Israel signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization went into effect, had entered their fourth round this week.

But the talks in the Sinai border town were suspended Tuesday by the Palestinians. They rejected Israel's proposed troop withdrawals from Gaza as falling far short of their expectations.

Israeli officials said that they were not surprised by the suspension and that they expected the talks to resume next week after both delegations consulted with their respective leaders.

The latest round of talks on implementing Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho had begun Monday on an upbeat and businesslike note.

But by Tuesday, serious disputes arose after maps were presented illustrating Israel's plans to withdraw its forces from Gaza City and redeploy them in Jewish settlements within the Gaza Strip to protect the settlers living there.

"We are in difficult matters," said Nabil Sha'ath, the chief PLO negotiator at Taba. "The difficulty emanates from what we feel is the Israelis' misinterpretation of the idea of withdrawal."

"The (self-rule) agreement provided for withdrawal by the Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, and not within the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area," Sha'ath said.

"The plan in our mind falls far short of the declaration of principles (governing the agreement) and, therefore, we are suspending the

meetings in Taba today to go back to our leadership," he said.

The Palestinians also rejected Israeli plans to have military access to roads within Gaza.

The Israeli negotiators maintained that the redeployment was necessary for the protection of Israeli settlers living in Gaza and for the external security of the region.

They also argued that the redeployment was consistent with the declaration of principles that forms the backbone of the self-rule accord.

#### No 'Real Crisis' At Moment

But the Israelis appeared to play down the disputes and to highlight the progress that had been achieved in other committees meeting in Taba.

They cited as an example the group that has responsibility for discussing the transfer of civil authority to the Palestinians, scheduled under the terms of the accord to begin Dec. 13.

"I believe the atmosphere is such that we can reach an advancement," Ami Gluska, spokesman for the Israeli delegation, told Israel Television. "I don't expect we'll solve all the problems immediately, but I don't see any real crisis at the moment."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin conceded that the negotiations had reached a difficult juncture, but said that he was not alarmed by the suspension.

He said patience was needed, adding that he was confident the problems would be overcome.

But Rabin also stressed that Israel would not compromise on security issues, even at the risk of provoking a diplomatic crisis with the Palestinians.

#### NEWS ANALYSIS:

#### **ISRAELIS' UNFLAGGING SUPPORT FOR PLO ACCORD SEEMS IN DOUBT**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- A spate of anti-Arab violence by Jewish settlers in the administered territories this week was only the most extreme manifestation of what the government here fears is a drift in Israeli public opinion away from support for the Israeli-Palestinian accord on self-rule.

The violence was touched off by the killing last Friday of Chaim Mizrahi, a resident of the West Bank settlement of Beit El, who apparently was kidnapped and murdered by Islamic fundamentalists when he went to buy eggs at a Palestinian chicken farm.

Enraged settlers went on a rampage, blocking roads with burning tires, stoning Arab cars, roughing up Arab drivers, and setting agricultural fields and Arab schools on fire.

The violence, which began Saturday night and continued for a few days, had mostly tapered off by midweek. But there was lingering concern about what some in the media were calling the start of a "Jewish intifada."

While the public recoiled from such excesses, which were condemned in the strongest terms by even right-wing politicians, it seemed nevertheless that, this time, the settlers had succeeded in attracting the sympathies of the Israeli public.

Their rowdy demonstrations in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 13 signing of the accord with the Palestine Liberation Organization had left the vast bulk of the Israeli public demonstrably cold.

But the brutal death of Mizrahi, who was ambushed while buying eggs from a Palestinian farmer, brought home to people the dangers that Israelis living in the territories will still face -- perhaps in even greater measure -- once Israel begins withdrawing its forces from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho on Dec. 13, as called for in the accord.

The government's problems were probably exacerbated by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin himself.

In a typically sharp Rabinesque comment Saturday night, the prime minister appeared to lump together the Hamas terrorists -- three of whom butchered Mizrahi -- and the Jewish settlers as enemies of the peace process.

But by the same token, Rabin's much-criticized remark served to focus the public debate.

It is true that in subsequent explanatory statements, Rabin carefully added the Hebrew word "I'havdil" -- "to make a distinction." But he nonetheless retained the basic logic of his analogy.

The Hamas terrorists are trying to destroy Israel's accord with the PLO, he told reporters Tuesday as he went to vote in the municipal elections being held throughout the country.

#### Ups And Downs To Be Expected

Rabin clearly proposes to maintain this public policy line to defend his agreement with the PLO and to shore up domestic support for it.

To this end, Rabin has repeatedly stressed that the PLO has abided strictly by its commitment to forswear terrorism and that it is not involved in the current crop of attacks and attempted attacks within Israel proper, the territories or in southern Lebanon.

Rabin has also repeatedly cautioned the public to expect ups and downs in the ongoing talks with the PLO, which entered their fourth round this week in the Sinai border town of Taba.

One such "down" took place Tuesday, when the Palestinians, rejecting Israeli plans for the withdrawal from Gaza, suspended the Taba talks.

In the short term, with the implementation of the self-rule accord the first order of business, Rabin and his government seem well-set to weather any settler backlash.

This is because the widespread desire to be rid of Gaza has become a national yearning. And the continuation of terrorist incidents originating from there only serves to reinforce that yearning.

But some government officials view the longer-term prospects with trepidation.

They point out that by April, when Israeli forces are scheduled to complete their withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, the second phase of Palestinian "early empowerment" will begin. And this phase is certain to be more delicate and complex.

During this phase, the Palestinians in the rest of the territories will begin to exercise elements of the self-rule accord, including the ability to participate in elections throughout the territories for a Palestinian council.

But the settlers, meanwhile, will be trying to continue with their daily lives in the face of Arab rejectionists, who will still be trying, even at that late stage, to torpedo the peace process.

It is a scenario fraught with tension and danger, which, to judge by the events of the past few days, could well explode in the faces of the peacemakers on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

## HEIGHTENED EXPECTATIONS AS UJA MEETS WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES IN JERUSALEM

By Larry Yudelson

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The last time anyone on this bus visited Jerusalem, the flags hanging outside and inside the New Orient House were illegal.

Now, with mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization achieved, the organization's red, white, green and black flag flies freely.

A group of Jewish visitors from America quickly posed, using the flag as the perfect photo backdrop, after hearing an official PLO spokesman explain and defend the organization's policies.

The meeting with Maen Areikat, head of the Palestinian Information Office in eastern Jerusalem, was followed by one with residents of Efrat, a Jewish settlement in the Gush Etzion bloc in the West Bank.

Similar meetings with Palestinians and settlers were part of the itinerary for each of the 21 buses carrying across the country the 700 American Jews participating in the President's Mission of the United Jewish Appeal.

Meetings with representatives on both sides of political issues are not new for UJA missions.

But the meeting at the New Orient House was the first such meeting with Palestinian representatives in their official headquarters, the building in eastern Jerusalem that represents the Palestinian political presence in the city.

"The peace process has set a wonderful tone where people feel they want to touch it and feel it," said Roberta Holland, chair of the mission, pointing to the substantially larger number of participants than in recent such missions.

The tone was clear in the enthusiasm that greeted Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' appraisal of the peace process at the beginning of the mission.

And it was evident in the disappointment of some Americans when Areikat offered less tangible evidence of new relations between the Arabs and Jews than they would have liked.

"As usual, the Palestinians are saying the Israelis should be doing more," Bob Usen of Boston said after the meeting.

"I don't know what they (the Palestinians) are really doing to make this process go faster," he said.

### Rejects Appeal To End Boycott

Areikat had said the Palestinians were planning an economy that would be "a bit protectionist," and played down the notion of joint Israeli-Palestinian economic activity in the near future.

"The economic situation will be directly tied to the political situation," he told the Americans. "Don't expect full economic relations before the political situation is settled."

He also dismissed an appeal by the UJA executive vice president, Rabbi Brian Lurie, for an end to the Arab economic boycott of Israel and of the countries that do business with it.

"It's not yet easy to say, let's normalize everything," said Areikat. "You can't come now when I'm still under Israeli military occupation, and Syrian territory is still under Israeli military occupation, and Lebanon is still under military occupation, ask me to give up one of my strongest weapons."

But if the PLO spokesman did not live up to

euphoric visions of immediate peace, the settlers also failed to convince most participants of their side.

Some of the settlers generated sympathy, if not political agreement.

"I learned something about the settlers," Holland said.

"It gave me a greater insight, and a great deal more compassion," she said. "I understand what they built, with a lot of passion and blood, that they're concerned about losing their homes and their security."

"I'm sorry they're put in the dilemma they're in, but hopefully it was resolved to their satisfaction, and they will be able to keep their homes."

But other mission participants complained of being harangued.

"Why don't you give your government a chance?" asked one visitor to Efrat, after a resident, Jack Kern, accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of lying to the public and betraying the country.

Indeed, at the conclusion of the mission, Rabin was loudly applauded after saying that Israel was taking "calculated risks" for peace.

## NUMBER OF JEWS IN THE FORMER USSR LOWER THAN EXPECTED, SURVEY SHOWS

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- There are fewer Jews living in the former Soviet Union than had previously been believed, a survey conducted by the Jewish Agency for Israel indicates.

According to the survey, which was compiled by the Jewish Agency's unit for the former Soviet Union and Central Europe, there are 1.4 million Jews living in 200 communities in the Soviet successor states.

The figure is sharply lower than previous estimates, which put the total Jewish population there at between 3 million and 5 million.

"The survey is not scientific, it is not a census," said Baruch Gur, head of the unit that compiled the survey.

But he said the new figure, compiled by agency representatives working in the field in cooperation with local authorities, is a reliable one that reflects "self-identified Jews."

The survey, which breaks down populations by communities, "gives an important demographic picture" of the size and locations of Jewish communities within the former Soviet Union, he said.

That is important to officials of the Jewish Agency, which helps absorb immigrants from all over the world.

Last month, 6,187 Jews from the republics arrived here, according to statistics compiled by the Soviet Jewry Research Bureau of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry in New York.

The total was slightly lower than the 6,207 Jews who arrived in September, the month with the highest aliyah total so far this year. But the October total was higher than any other month this year.

The October figure brings aliyah from the region to 53,388 so far this calendar year.

At the same time, 2,781 Jews from the former Soviet Union arrived in the United States last month under the government's refugee program, according to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. HIAS put the total for the year to date at 29,243.

## ISRAELI ENVOY BUILDS BRIDGES ACROSS MULTICULTURAL AMERICA

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- Avi Granot, an envoy from the Israeli Embassy in Washington, is actively courting different communities in multicultural and predominantly Christian America.

As the first Israeli to hold the title of liaison to ethnic and religious communities, Granot has an unusual vantage point for gauging shifting sentiments toward Israel.

During a three-day visit to the Los Angeles area last week, he got the opportunity to put that vantage point to the fullest use.

In a single day, Granot had breakfast with Latino leaders, lunch with Asians and attended an afternoon reception for Christian dignitaries.

The evening before, he met with an African American delegation.

Granot believes there has been a dramatic change in American attitudes toward Israel, especially among mainline Protestant churches, since the handshake between Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat.

Indeed, at the breakfast with a half-dozen Latino leaders, there was not even a hint of the critical comments and questions common in past years.

Still, Granot has occasional problems.

At times, he has to defend his government's policy against evangelical Christians, who believe as fervently as the most nationalistic Jew in the territorial inviolability of the Land of Israel and who question any step that might alter Israel's boundaries.

Granot also has had to dampen his listeners' belief in the unlimited capability and clout of Israel and the American Jewish community -- two entities often seen as interchangeable or synonymous.

"The expectations of what Israel and the Jewish community can do are unrealistically high," said Granot. "I generally urge them to stop expecting too much from us. It is better if we can teach them self-reliance."

The belief in Israeli-Jewish competence was borne out at the breakfast and in subsequent conversations with four women actively involved in the Latino community.

### Some Concerns About Jewish Community

While all listened politely to Granot's animated opening remarks on the historic accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13, their concerns were closer to home.

The uppermost preoccupation was with what one of the women, Linda Griego, termed "immigrant bashing," directed foremost at undocumented workers from Mexico and Central America, but deeply felt by the established Latino community as a whole.

With reluctance, the women voiced some concerns about the Jewish community.

"We have many Jewish owners on the East Side in the garment, food and furniture industries, and almost all their workers are Latinos," Griego said. "We see these men giving big money to Jewish causes, but none to the Latino community."

Rosa Martinez, a teacher and former mayor's aide, expressed an apparently widespread perception that Jewish outreach toward minorities focuses on the African American community.

"Jews are much more supportive of blacks

than Latinos," she said. On balance, however, Latino perceptions of the Jewish community appear overwhelmingly positive. There is a strong desire to emulate what Latinos see as Jewish drive, influence, wealth and, above all, unity.

When a Jewish reporter cited his community's vigorous infighting, Martinez observed: "When it comes to the interests of Israel, you are unified. We don't have that kind of focus."

## AFTER SUSPENSION FOR ETHNIC SLURS, SCHOTT RETURNS TO CINCINNATI BASEBALL

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 2 (JTA) -- Marge Schott received a hero's welcome Monday as she returned to the Cincinnati Reds, and now the local Jewish community is waiting to see if she has changed her offensive ways.

Schott, owner of the National League baseball team, was fined \$25,000, given an eight-month suspension and ordered to attend a diversity-sensitivity seminar by major league baseball's executive council last February after a national outcry arose over anti-Semitic and racist remarks she made.

At the time, Schott acknowledged that she had used the terms "money-grubbing Jews," "nigger" and "Japs," and that she kept a Nazi swastika armband at home, although she said she "never thought of it as anything offensive."

"I have no evidence one way or the other that she's changed," said Michael Rapp, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Cincinnati.

"It took her 60-some years to get to be this way, and she won't change because she sat through some diversity program."

"But I hope she's learned enough not to articulate her prejudice in public," Rapp said. "If she's done that, we're ahead of the game."

Eight months after being suspended, her staff and friends welcomed Schott back to Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium with cheers and "Hail to the Chief" at a balloon- and banner-festooned party.

"They treated her as if she were a just-released prisoner of war, and she did nothing to warrant that kind of accolade," said Rapp.

He said, however, that her racial slurs led to one positive step. The Reds' managers also took a several-session diversity training course that prompted them to put together a 10-point action plan to deal better with racial and ethnic issues.

The action agenda includes plans to hire a full-time staff member to deal with human relations issues; an effort to increase the number of minority vendors at the Reds' stadium; and plans to hold regular staff meetings to improve morale on racial issues.

"It is now our responsibility to make sure they live up to their agreements," said Rapp. "If they do so, then the Reds are in the position of taking a leadership role in this area in the world of professional sports."

The Schott imbroglio led the JCRC to work in coalition with the Urban League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Black Male Coalition and the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission.

Local representatives of Japanese American groups were missing from that coalition, said Rapp, because its other members refused to let them participate. That "will always be a source of embarrassment" to me, said Rapp.