

**IRRITATED, RABIN DENIES PLANS  
TO ABANDON 'UNITED' JERUSALEM**  
By Bram D. Eisenthal

MONTREAL, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- Recalling his roots and role in the modern history of Jerusalem, a visibly angered Yitzhak Rabin has denied suggestions that he had abandoned his commitment to a united city.

"I'm committed to a united Jerusalem and no one will teach me what is a united Jerusalem," the Israeli prime minister said at a news conference hours before he was to address the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in Montreal.

"I was born in Jerusalem, the first Israeli prime minister to be born in Jerusalem," he said.

"I commanded a brigade that fought along the road to Jerusalem, a brigade that lost more than any of the other brigades in the War of Independence."

He said he had "had a unique role" in bringing about the city's unification when he was Israel Defense Force chief of staff during the 1967 Six-Day War.

"You don't have to tell me and no one has to tell me the meaning of a united Jerusalem," the prime minister said.

Rabin also stressed his government's dedication to the peace process.

The peace process' most historic moment did not occur with Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat in September, he said.

"The historic breakthrough did not take place on the lawns of the White House on the 13th of September, but took place on the lawns of the White House in 1978 upon the singing of the Camp David accord," Rabin said.

And he paid homage to Israel's architect of that deal.

"I more than appreciate the courage of the late prime minister of Israel, Menachem Begin, when he took the decision to give back a large percentage of Sinai," Rabin said.

He admitted that, by negotiating with the PLO, he had broken a campaign promise.

But he chose this route, he said, after he realized that the organization was calling the shots for the Palestinian negotiating team. Direct dealing with the PLO is the most prudent way to achieve peace, he said.

Rabin met Wednesday in Ottawa with newly elected Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and used the occasion to thank Canada for its role in the peace process and for its contribution to the U.N. peacekeeping force in the Middle East.

**JEWISH COMMUNAL WORLD  
WELCOMES NEW LEADER**

By Bram D. Eisenthal

MONTREAL, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- Some 4,000 lay and professional leaders from the Jewish communal world gathered here Tuesday for the opening of the 62nd General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations.

The delegates had an opportunity to meet newly elected CJF President Maynard Wishner, who is succeeding Charles Goodman.

Wishner's nomination was formally approved by the CJF Board of Delegates on Wednesday at the opening plenary of the G.A.

Delegates from North and South America, Israel, South Africa and Switzerland registered for this year's G.A., whose theme is "Jewish Community Through Diversity: Building Global, Continental and Local Jewish Communities For a New Era."

Wishner, a Chicago attorney, is legal counsel to the firm of Rosenthal and Schanfield.

He was previously president and chief executive officer of Walter E. Heller & Company and, before entering private practice in 1955, was chief city prosecutor in the city of Chicago law department.

Wishner is chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and is a past president of the American Jewish Committee.

He has also served as chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Council and as president of the Jewish Family and Community Service of Chicago.

Wishner's term will commence at the conclusion of the G.A.

Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the board of governors of the Jewish Agency for Israel, bid farewell to Goodman.

"You have begun a program which says to us clearly that every Jew in the world should have the ability to be Jewish, to remain Jewish," said Kaplan.

Saying that Goodman had taught the Jewish community how to lead "a proud and dignified Jewish life," Kaplan added, "We thank you on behalf of world Jewry."

**JEWISH GROUPS VEXED BY INFERENCE  
OF INFLUENCE OVER U.S. PROSECUTORS**  
By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- In the wake of an appeals court decision this week overturning the 1985 extradition of John Demjanjuk, some Jewish officials here are protesting insinuations by the court that the Justice Department bowed to pressure from Jewish interests.

In its ruling Wednesday on the Demjanjuk case, a federal appeals court in Cincinnati said attorneys from the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which is responsible for prosecuting suspected Nazi war criminals, worked very closely with "various interest groups."

"It is obvious from the record that the prevailing mind-set at OSI was that the office must try to please and maintain very close relationships with various interest groups because their continued existence depended on it," the decision said.

The decision also mentioned that Allan Ryan Jr., who was then the head of OSI, had gone to Israel in 1986 on a lecture tour sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League.

The appeals court ruled that Justice Department prosecutors had committed fraud by withholding evidence while obtaining Demjanjuk's extradition order to Israel. Demjanjuk was later tried and acquitted in Israel of being the Nazi death camp guard "Ivan the Terrible."

ADL National Chairman Melvin Salberg and

National Director Abraham Foxman responded angrily Wednesday to the decision.

"It is absolutely mind-boggling for the court to impugn OSI's integrity by suggesting that their handling of the case was tainted in any way by a 'mind-set' of needing 'to please and maintain very close relationships' with groups like the Anti-Defamation League," Salberg and Foxman said in a statement.

"We stand foursquare behind the OSI," they said.

ADL has communicated with the Justice Department to express the group's outrage over the court's suggestions, as well as to urge the department to take prompt action to get Demjanjuk out of the United States.

The American Jewish Committee is also upset by the court's ruling.

"The panel's opinion was, in a word, offensive," Samuel Rabinove, AJCommittee's legal director, said Thursday.

"We say the suggestion that the deportation of Nazi war criminals" is "solely a concern of 'interest groups' rather than a policy that stands on its own moral weight is repugnant," Rabinove said.

AJCommittee is calling on Attorney General Janet Reno to deport Demjanjuk.

Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) contacted Reno on Wednesday urging her to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court.

Schumer said in a statement Wednesday, "After reading the court decision I'm infuriated at what is as close to blatant anti-Semitism as I've ever seen in a legal opinion."

"The court doesn't understand that the Office of Special Investigations that tracks down war criminals exists because there are Nazis in America, not because there are Jews in America," Schumer said.

Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), who also has been outspoken on the Demjanjuk issue, likewise released a statement criticizing the decision and its "allegations" about OSI.

At a news conference Thursday, Reno repeated a statement she made the day before that the Justice Department was reviewing the appeals court decision.

She also reiterated that the department intended "to effect Demjanjuk's prompt removal from the United States as soon as we determine his legal status."

Actions of the controversial Justice Department unit have already been the subject of government and court reviews.

The attorney general said that the entire department is currently being reviewed to see how efficiently it functions, and that the department wants to try to comply with the "highest ethical standards."

Appellate Judge Pierce Lively wrote Wednesday's decision, and was joined by Judges Gilbert Merritt and Damon Keith.

The judges said the Justice Department's actions contrasted negatively with the behavior of Israeli prosecutors.

"The 'win at any cost' attitude displayed by some of these record documents and statements contrasts sharply with the attitudes and actions of the Israeli prosecutors, who were under domestic political pressures themselves," the decision said.

"But for the action of the Israeli prosecutors, the death sentence against Demjanjuk probably would have been carried out by now.

"He would have been executed on a charge for which he has now been acquitted," the decision said.

After his acquittal in Israel earlier this year, the Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, 73, was allowed to return to Ohio for legal proceedings.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE GIVES NOD TO DJEREJIAN By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- Edward Djerejian has moved one step closer toward the post of U.S. ambassador to Israel.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the veteran diplomat's nomination by voice vote on Thursday.

The full Senate is expected to approve the nomination, possibly within days, as Congress tries to adjourn before Thanksgiving.

Djerejian, a former ambassador to Syria, is now assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs. He has been one of the key administration players on the Middle East peace process.

The widely respected Djerejian is expected to take up the position in Israel at the beginning of 1994.

#### FRANCE'S CHIEF RABBI COMES TO DEFENSE OF BELEAGUERED VEILED MUSLIM STUDENTS By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- In a meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, France's chief rabbi came to the defense of Muslim schoolgirls, who the rabbi said are the victims of an anti-religious trend within the country.

During his meeting with Mitterrand on Wednesday, Rabbi Joseph Sitruk referred to the recent expulsion of Muslim girls from a state-run school in Nantua, a city in south-central France.

The girls were expelled for refusing on religious grounds to remove their veils in school. Some of the girls had also refused to attend biology classes for religious reasons.

According to French law, pupils at state-run schools are forbidden to wear religious garb or insignia.

No incidents were ever reported involving boys wearing skullcaps.

But Sitruk came to the defense of the Muslim schoolgirls.

He told the president that the actions taken against them had been criticized by "part of the Jewish community, especially the young, who wish to reconcile their Jewish life and practice with the secular state-run school."

The Jewish leader underscored his point by noting that the first day of the coming school year will fall on Rosh Hashanah.

"A religion has the right to express itself as long as it does not do any proselytizing and does not ask its followers to wear specific signs in an outrageously visible way," Sitruk told reporters following the meeting with Mitterrand.

"I think it would be lamentable if a country with such broad ideas as France would close its doors to people who simply want to be different," said Sitruk.

The rabbi added that the spread of Islamic fundamentalism in France had been grossly exaggerated by the media.

Of France's 57.2 million inhabitants, between 3 million to 5 million people are Muslim.

There are an estimated 500,000 to 700,000 Jews living in France.

## GAY RABBIS, CANTORS FACE HURDLES IN WHAT CONGREGATIONS WILL ACCEPT

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- Homosexual rabbis and cantors have long had two options: to keep their sexual orientation a carefully guarded secret or to work at one of the handful of gay and lesbian synagogues in North America.

The environment has been slowly changing, allowing some gay clergy to make their orientation known to their mainstream congregations without the admission ending their careers.

Their experiences, however, remain the exception.

Most gay clergy cannot reveal their identity.

"I only wish that the community understood how many of us are loyal and committed members who do not wish to be pushed out but who cannot sustain the contradiction of wanting in, to be part of this Jewish communal and religious world, when the message from it is so painful," said one gay, Orthodox rabbi.

The rabbi, who is a public figure in a large city, spoke on condition of anonymity.

If his orientation were discovered, he said, "I would most likely lose my job and the ability to speak about anything. That's not what I want for my life. I want to be able to teach Torah."

For rabbis and cantors in the more liberal movements, coming out and being able to survive the controversy is slowly becoming a more realistic possibility.

But even in those congregations that accept spiritual leaders who are gay and lesbian, complex emotional issues arise when they become parents.

David Serkin-Poole, the cantor at Reform Temple B'nai Torah on Mercer Island, Wash., just outside of Seattle, says he was "deeply closeted" for many years.

No controversy erupted over his sexual orientation after he carefully broke the news to his board of directors and congregation -- in fact, he got a standing ovation at the annual congregational meeting at which he made the announcement.

### Strong Public Response of Support

But the following year, when he and his partner adopted the first of their three children, about 30 of the congregation's 200 families began a campaign to have him fired.

After several months of tension and dissension, the board "issued a very strong public response of unequivocal support for me as their cantor, teacher, co-spiritual leader and director of education," said Serkin-Poole, and those who tried to have him ousted left the temple.

The whole process, stressful though it was, has had a positive effect on his relationship with his congregation, he said, bringing them closer.

For Elizabeth Bolton, her lesbianism also only became an issue in her Conservative congregation when she became pregnant.

Bolton works as the cantor at Congregation Beth Am Israel, in Penn Valley, Pa., and is a rabbinical student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

She and her partner thought they were "out" to everyone there. But when Bolton became pregnant and it became public soon after she had renewed her contract, the board of directors looked into having her fired, she said.

"We like her as a person," said one board member. But Bolton's pregnancy "has been a

source of confusion. We're all responding viscerally right now. It has made us realize that homosexual clergy is an issue we need to explore," she said.

Bolton explained the congregation's reaction this way; "Those who chose to ignore (the fact that I am a lesbian) when I was not pregnant could do it. But a woman in a non-traditional relationship who is pregnant is throwing it in their faces."

The approaches of Judaism's denominations to gay and lesbian clergy vary greatly.

The Reform and Reconstructionist movements have been supportive of gay and lesbian clergy, in both principle and policy.

But despite the image of the Reform movement being the most open, it "doesn't mean everything is hunky-dory," said one Reform rabbi.

While an increasing number of Reform rabbinical students are "out," many still shield themselves from potential controversy by keeping their sexual orientation secret.

Orthodox and Conservative rabbis and cantors, by and large, must continue to hide their sexual orientation if they want to keep their jobs.

Some marry and have families in an effort to play the expected role.

The Conservative movement was wracked with debate in 1991 and 1992 over whether Jewish law could be interpreted to mean that homosexuals may be spiritual leaders.

The movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards adopted the position that homosexual behavior is incompatible with living as an observant Jew, and therefore sexually active gays and lesbians may not work as religious leaders.

In the meantime, one Conservative rabbi whose orientation was disclosed without his consent was fired by his congregation.

### Effort To Play Expected Role

Rabbi Howard Handler, who was employed by Manhattan's Town and Village Synagogue, was not aided by the movement's rabbinical organization when he tried to find another congregational job.

Instead, the placement committee allowed him to independently circulate his resume to congregations, which is technically prohibited by the committee's rules.

Unable to find a pulpit, he tried his hand at real estate and is now attempting to find work as a public school teacher.

The atmosphere in the Conservative movement, say rabbis and students, is now one of fear; both those already ordained and rabbinical school students dare not allow their sexual orientation to become known for fear of suffering consequences similar to Handler's.

That fear is magnified in the Orthodox world, where homosexuality is unequivocally rejected.

The Orthodox rabbi lives in fear that he will be "outed" as a gay man and be ostracized by his community.

"Fear of homosexuality is greatest in the Orthodox community because the notion that I construct my life on the basis of my needs is very Western," he explained. "The traditionalist viewpoint is that your identity is not your own," he said. People see this "as a direct challenge to the establishment of family."

"They are assuming that gayness is basically about sexual liberation. It's not," he said. Gayness is about a different sexuality that can be sanctified by commitment, love, family and restraint."

## MEMBERS OF CONGRESS INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO END ARAB BOYCOTT

By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- Members of Congress are engaged in a flurry of activity designed to end the Arab economic boycott of Israel, amid signs that the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization self-rule agreement itself has had little effect in doing so.

Several pieces of legislation have been introduced in recent weeks, at the same time as the Clinton administration has asked the U.S. International Trade Commission to study the impact of the boycott on American businesses.

Such legislation shows that "the United States is committed to actively engage in ending the boycott," said Jess Hordes, director of the Anti-Defamation League's Washington office.

"This legislation provides the tools by which we can go beyond simple rhetoric to taking action," Hordes said Thursday.

The Arab League began the boycott before the creation of Israel.

The primary Arab boycott prohibits Arab countries and companies from dealing directly with Israel.

The secondary and tertiary boycotts prohibit dealing with any companies doing business with Israel.

Hopes that the Israel-PLO agreement signed Sept. 13 at the White House would bring an end to the boycott have been dashed by reports that boycott activity is actually on the rise.

Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) testified before a congressional subcommittee Thursday that boycott-related requests to U.S. companies by Arab countries could jump 16 percent this year over last year's total.

The number of illegal boycott requests to American companies made by Saudi Arabia rose substantially, he said, quoting Commerce Department figures.

Schumer has introduced legislation that would amend the Export Administration Act to allow companies affected by the boycott to recover damages.

### 'Getting Beyond The Rhetoric'

Jewish groups have recently urged Arab countries, which have thus far only vaguely indicated that boycott activity would decrease, to call for the boycott's outright end.

"The problem that we face is getting beyond the rhetoric," Hordes told the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on economic policy, trade and environment.

Efforts to curb boycott activity have taken many forms.

Legislation announced Thursday by Reps. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.) and Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) would prohibit U.S. arms sales to countries honoring the boycott.

"The purpose of this legislation is to send a signal to those nations that continue to support the Arab boycott against Israel that the time has come to change," Gilman said in a statement.

Similar legislation was recently introduced in the Senate by Sens. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Hank Brown (R-Colo.).

Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-Conn.) has introduced a bill that calls on the United States to veto Saudi Arabia's application for membership to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) until it renounces its participation in the

secondary and tertiary boycotts.

Legislation calling for the dismantling of the boycotts and urging the administration to raise the boycott issue in every appropriate international trade forum has been introduced by Peter Deutsch (D-Fla.).

These bills are still pending.

## PLUG PULLED ON SHOW DENYING THE HOLOCAUST

By Mitchell Danow

NEW YORK, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- For the second time in four months, a series of satellite-transmitted television programs denying the Holocaust and promoting racism and anti-Semitism has been taken off the air.

The shows, produced by Canadian Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel under the series title "Voice of Freedom," were broadcast first during the summer by Showcase America, a Colorado-based company, and then during the fall by Keystone Communications, based in York, Pa.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center, based in Los Angeles, had protested the programs, which had the potential to reach millions of homes.

One of the shows featured Zundel on a walking tour of the Auschwitz concentration camp with another Holocaust denier, David Cole.

"That program was the most outrageous of all because it desecrated the memory of Hitler's victims by using a gas chamber in the infamous camp as a backdrop for these hatemongers to deny that anyone was gassed at all," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Wiesenthal Center.

"The use of this medium by Holocaust-deniers indicates a troubling growth in the sophistication of the methodology used to spread the 'big lie,'" said Cooper.

In September, the "Voice of Freedom" was taken off the air in Canada after complaints were filed by the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Zundel has been moving his program from one satellite broadcaster to another, Cooper said.

"The good news about satellite transmissions is that it enables people to transmit information and programming over large distances," he said.

"The bad news," he added, "is that people like Zundel have learned to do the same thing."

Zundel, 54, was originally convicted in Canada's courts in February 1985 on charges of distributing a 32-page Holocaust-denial pamphlet, "Did Six Million Really Die?"

On Aug. 27, 1992, responding to Zundel's challenge, Canada's Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional the law banning the wilful spread of "false news" that was used to convict him.

## LEOPARD KILLED BY BUS NEAR DEAD SEA

TEL AVIV, Nov. 18 (JTA) -- The leopard population of the Judean wilderness along the shores of the Dead Sea was reduced by one-quarter by a hit-and-run Egged bus driver.

Soldiers from a nearby guard post found the fatally injured 9-year-old leopard lying on the road along the Dead Sea shore near Ein Gedi.

Veterinarians with the Nature Reserve Authority were unable to save the leopard from the injuries it sustained when it was hit last Saturday night by the bus, whose driver failed to stop or report the incident.

The death of the animal reduces to three the number of leopards in the Dead Sea area.