

**ADL, NAACP TIGHT-LIPPED
AFTER MEETING ON RELATIONS**
By Pamela Druckerman

NEW YORK, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- After a two-and-a-half-hour meeting Thursday between leaders of the NAACP and the Anti-Defamation League, the two civil rights organizations refused to comment on whether their differences over Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan had been resolved.

However, Dr. William Gibson, chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said at a news conference following the meeting that a three-paragraph statement describing both groups' desire to work together on issues of mutual concern was "all we could agree on."

The statement said that the meeting "re-affirmed our commitment to working toward a common civil rights agenda" and that the two groups would jointly sponsor a series of meetings to deal with "issues that affect the quality of life of our respective communities."

ADL National Director Abraham Foxman said one of those issues included racism and anti-Semitism, but he refused to elaborate on what this would mean in terms of the NAACP's relations with Farrakhan.

In a widely publicized press conference on Feb. 3, Farrakhan said he would stand by the "truths" made in a speech by an aide, Khalid Abdul Muhammad, which included the claim that Jews were "bloodsuckers" as well as other anti-Semitic, anti-white, anti-Catholic and anti-gay remarks.

Following Farrakhan's remarks, the NAACP issued a statement saying it was "prepared to believe" Farrakhan's claim that he is "neither anti-Semitic nor racist," and welcoming Farrakhan's participation in a summit meeting of African American leaders.

Wants To Continue Ties To NAACP

NAACP representatives refused to comment Thursday on whether such a meeting would indeed take place.

The ADL released a statement saying it was "disappointed" by the NAACP's response.

At Thursday's news conference, ADL National Chairman Melvin Salberg refused to comment on the substance of the lunch meeting between the two groups, but repeatedly urged reporters to read the jointly prepared statement "very carefully."

The statement said that the NAACP and ADL leaders have met "not to paper over differences, but to affirm what we hold in common."

The failure of either group to discuss the Farrakhan issue led to speculation that the two groups were unable to reach an agreement but instead decided to move on with other issues.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last week, the ADL's Foxman affirmed his organization's desire to continue relations with the NAACP, citing the two groups' historic relationship as well as ongoing common concerns.

"We're going to need each other," he said.

Foxman also said the ADL was not willing to participate in any joint projects that included Farrakhan, but he did not rule out the possibility of dialogue with groups that met with Farrakhan on their own.

The executive director of the American Jewish Committee, David Harris, said there needs to be a "clearing of the air" on the Farrakhan controversy so that the two groups can resume work on issues of mutual concern.

"It's not something we can summarily dismiss or ignore," said Harris, whose organization has sharply criticized the NAACP's response to Farrakhan's Feb. 3 remarks.

The decision by NAACP and ADL leaders not to discuss the Farrakhan controversy in Thursday's news conference shocked reporters, who had been provided with copies of the ADL's published refutation of a key Nation of Islam book as well as excerpts from Farrakhan's speeches, immediately before the conference.

In a speech before the National Press Club Thursday, the Rev. Jesse Jackson praised the meeting between Jewish and black civil rights leaders, calling for a conference to deal with civil rights issues.

Jackson did not say whether he would want Farrakhan to be included in such a conference.

**AS ROCKET SHATTERS GALILEE PEACE,
ISRAEL, U.S. WARN BEIRUT IT'S LIABLE**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- The firing of a Katyusha rocket into the western Galilee on Wednesday -- the first such attack on northern Israel in more than six months -- drew condemnation from Washington and Jerusalem.

The rocket attack, which damaged an Israeli factory but caused no casualties, was the work of a small Palestinian splinter group opposed to the ongoing Middle East peace process, according to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Rabin, along with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Police Minister Moshe Shahal, condemned the attack, saying Thursday that the Israeli government considered it a breach of an agreement reached in July between Israel, Syria, Lebanon and Palestinian rejectionist groups, particularly the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah movement.

The attack also brought condemnations from the U.S. State Department, which told the Lebanese government it must comply with last summer's agreement to halt terrorist attacks on Israel.

In late July, Israel launched a weeklong shelling of southern Lebanon, driving about 250,000 Lebanese from their homes, in retaliation for Hezbollah rocket attacks on northern Israel.

As part of the cease-fire brokered by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, a verbal understanding was reached that Hezbollah would refrain from firing Katyusha rockets into Israel.

Israel, in turn, agreed to cease its artillery bombardments of terrorist strongholds and villages north of the security buffer zone. Syria, which

holds sway over Palestinian rejectionist groups operating in southern Lebanon, had also given its tacit backing to the cease-fire arrangement.

Although Hezbollah was initially considered responsible for Wednesday's attack, Rabin said Thursday that it was the work of a small splinter group calling itself "Black September 13" -- a reference to the date of the signing last year of the Palestinian self-rule accord in Washington.

Rabin referred to the attackers as "a marginal group. It doesn't at all compare to the size of the Hezbollah threat, and the Israeli army will find the way to deal with this matter," he said.

The Lebanese government issued a statement Wednesday saying it had been told by the United States that the fighting in southern Lebanon represented a serious threat to regional peace efforts.

Israel's deputy foreign minister, Yossi Beilin, who met with Christopher and other State Department officials Thursday in Washington, said the secretary had told him the United States was pressing Lebanon to abide by its word.

Christopher "said the United States will insist on abiding by and complying with the agreement, which was achieved between us and the Lebanese in the summer of '93 and would do whatever possible in order to prevent a continuation of the development which occurred yesterday," said Beilin.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

FIGHT BREWING OVER REPLACEMENT FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE JEWISH AGENCY By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency is awash with politics and intrigue over who will replace its chairman, Simcha Dinitz.

After being indicted for fraud and breach of trust, Dinitz took a leave of absence earlier this week, leaving frenzied back-room dealing and calculation in his wake.

Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the agency's Board of Governors, has asked Treasurer Hanan Ben-Yehuda to preside over agency meetings in Dinitz's immediate absence, as provided by the bylaws. But the Board of Governors, which convened here Wednesday, is reviewing options for a longer-term strategy.

Pending a decision on who will run the \$500-million-a-year agency, which is the primary recipient of money raised for Israel by the United Jewish Appeal, numerous possible scenarios were being advanced by senior officials, many of whom have a stake in the outcome.

The question of who will run the Jewish Agency, which is responsible for bringing immigrants to Israel as well as providing other social and educational services, is complicated by the fact that the agency is not organized simply along corporate lines.

Instead, it reflects two separate balances of power. One mirrors Israeli politics, with the Labor Party, which Dinitz formerly represented in the Knesset, currently wielding more power than Likud, which Ben-Yehuda represents.

The other is between leaders of the Diaspora fund-raising organizations that pay the bills, on the one hand, and the Israelis and their Diaspora Zionist allies, who have an equal say in setting

policy. The Jewish Agency chairman and other senior officials are chosen by the Israeli and Diaspora Zionists of the World Zionist Organization, but must be ratified by the fund-raisers.

The simplest way to fill Dinitz's seat would be for the board to allow Ben-Yehuda to continue serving in the post de facto until an election for a permanent chairman is held in June or even sooner.

Many Labor stalwarts, though, object to such authority being held by a Likudnik, however temporarily.

It is likely, though not certain, that Dinitz will vacate the chairmanship before a permanent replacement is named. He has agreed to step down officially if exonerated before the end of the year, or at the end of the year if his case is not completed. But he is expected to be pressed to resign earlier.

Alternatively, the Board of Governors may opt to name an acting chairman, for which Yehiel Leket, head of the Youth Aliyah Department, is the top contender. A Laborite, he has the backing of the prime minister as well as the WZO, including its Likud component.

But Leket, who wants to use the acting chairmanship to build a base for his candidacy for the permanent post, is said to be fighting an uphill battle for the support of the Diaspora fund-raisers.

Indeed, sources say Likud gave Leket its backing for acting chairman in the belief that the fund-raisers would torpedo his candidacy for the permanent post.

Kaplan and Max Fisher, the veteran fund-raiser who is the Jewish Agency's founding chairman, have been meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in recent days to reach an agreement.

Rabin's Role Is Key

Kaplan is said to be vehemently opposed to Leket serving as chairman. He is believed to want a permanent appointment as soon as possible and to allow Ben-Yehuda to remain until then.

Rabin's role in advancing the Leket candidacy is key. Some say it is uncertain whether he will want to push it hard enough to risk alienating Diaspora leaders at this sensitive time in the Middle East peace process.

On the other hand, the Diaspora leaders may not want to fight Rabin over what is only a temporary chairmanship.

Leket himself argues that allowing Ben-Yehuda to continue presiding over meetings instead of electing an acting chairman would violate the requirements for partnership between the Diaspora and the Zionists.

The chairman of the Board of Governors is always a representative of the fund-raisers, he pointed out, while the chairman of the agency Executive is always a representative of the WZO.

"If we don't elect an acting chairman, there will be an imbalance," said Leket, "leaving only the chairman of the board with authority."

"We can't have a situation where there is no address for authority on the executive level."

"I am a candidate put forward very strongly by Rabin," Leket said with confidence. "If I have a chance to perform as acting chairman, I may win (the) respect and reputation" needed to secure the appointment of permanent chairman.

TURKEY CONSIDERS SPONSORING U.N. MEASURE AGAINST BIGOTRY

By Mitchell Danow

NEW YORK, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- After several Western countries refused to do so, Turkey has agreed to introduce a resolution condemning anti-Semitism before the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

The resolution, which was to be introduced Friday, will be part of a broader statement condemning racism, discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

Turkey, a Muslim country, agreed to sponsor the resolution on anti-Semitism after representatives to the commission from the United States, Canada and the European Union declined, saying they had not received instructions from their governments, according to a spokesman for the World Jewish Congress.

The U.S. delegation to the commission in Geneva, headed by former vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, had made women's issues and a resolution backing the peace initiatives in the Middle East its top priorities at the current session of the commission.

According to the WJC, several members of the U.S. delegation had argued that the potential defeat of a resolution on anti-Semitism would be harmful to the cause.

The United Nations has never explicitly condemned anti-Semitism. It was not until two years ago that the world body rescinded a General Assembly resolution, from 1975, equating Zionism with racism.

Had Turkey not agreed to sponsor the resolution, it was possible that the measure would have been put forward by the Russian representative, said Morris Abram, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva and now chairman of the Geneva-based U.N. Watch, a human rights group sponsored by the WJC.

Could Be A First For World Body

During informal conversations about the resolution, "the Russians were sympathetic to the idea" of perhaps putting it forward themselves, Abram told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Abram has been attempting to introduce a resolution condemning anti-Semitism since 1965, when he was U.S. representative to the Geneva-based Human Rights Commission.

But at that time, he said, the Soviets issued a call to condemn Zionism, and the initiative on anti-Semitism was tabled.

Discussing the chances for the passage of the resolution, Abram noted that Libya, Syria, Iran and the Sudan are on the commission, and that the resolution would therefore have to run "a gauntlet" before it was passed.

But, Abram added, "no matter what happens" the introduction of the resolution is a positive step. "If it succeeds, it will be the first time in history that a body that represents all the world has condemned anti-Semitism," he said.

"And if it fails, then we know that the peace process does not have a friend in the U.N.," he said.

Calling anti-Semitism "a terrible virus," Abram said that if the U.N. group does indeed endorse the resolution, "it could be one of the best pieces of news since the founding of Israel."

JEWISH GROUPS JOIN OPPOSITION TO BALANCED-BUDGET AMENDMENT

By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Several major Jewish groups have joined a diverse coalition of organizations opposed to the balanced budget amendment.

The American Jewish Congress is one member of the Coalition for Budget Integrity, a group of more than 100 national organizations that oppose the balanced budget amendment due to be considered by the Senate on Feb. 22.

At a news conference here Thursday, AJCongress delegates appeared with other coalition members to illustrate the damage that the amendment could have on state and federal economies.

"The balanced budget amendment would make it extremely difficult for the federal government to respond to our nation's changing economic needs," Mark Pelavin, AJCongress' Washington representative, said in a statement.

Richard Foltin, legal counsel for the American Jewish Committee, said Jewish interests could be threatened under the amendment. He said Congress would have to make cuts "across the board." In turn, foreign aid, including to Israel, could be cut, as well as social programs supported by and benefiting the Jewish community.

Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) and Rep. Charles Stenholm (D-Texas) proposed the amendment, which would mandate that Congress balance the budget by the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 1998.

To amend the Constitution, a proposal must pass by a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress, and be ratified by legislatures in three-fourths, or 38, of the states.

The House came just short of the required two-thirds majority in 1992, rejecting a balanced budget amendment also sponsored by Stenholm.

In an interview, Pelavin said the version of the amendment to be considered by the Senate is similar to that previously rejected by the House.

Jewish groups joining the coalition also include the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, the Council of Jewish Federations, the Jewish Labor Committee, the National Council of Jewish Women and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

U.S. ARMY INVESTIGATING CHARGES OF ANTI-SEMITISM AT ITS INSTITUTE

By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- The U.S. Army is investigating charges that Jewish faculty members at an Army institute in Germany were confronted with anti-Semitism and religious discrimination.

The Anti-Defamation League had requested such an inquiry in a letter last month to Secretary of the Army Togo West Jr.

The case involves Lev and Irene Yudovich, faculty members at the U.S. Army Russian Institute in Garmisch, Germany, who were suddenly dismissed in 1991 for "incompetence" after 13 years on the job.

The Yudoviches, American citizens who emigrated from Russia, claim their dismissal came as a result of widespread discrimination at the institute against Jews and Russians. A federal judge has already ruled in the Yudoviches' favor.

AS MORE ISRAELI WOMEN SPEAK OUT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Leah, the mother of four young children, endured a decade of physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her husband before seeking help at a shelter for battered women.

A shy woman in her late 20s, Leah (not her real name) is one of an estimated tens of thousands of Israeli women who are abused by their spouses or live-in boyfriends. She is also one of a growing number using the increasing number of services for battered wives and their children.

Virtually a taboo subject here just a decade ago, the problem of wife abuse is getting national recognition.

There are between 100,000 and 200,000 battered Israeli women, according to Yaffa Slisler, the Resource Center Coordinator for the Israel Women's Network. The number is inexact because many women decline to report the abuse.

Last year, 23 women died in violent domestic incidents, Slisler said.

"There is definitely more awareness of the problem on the part of legislators and the public at large," said Ronit Lev-Ari, a sociologist who heads the department of family violence prevention at Na'amat, the country's largest women's organization.

The plight of battered women has made it onto the political agenda, said Ruthie Rossing, resource development officer of the Jerusalem Shelter for Battered Women.

"It's not a fringe issue anymore," she said.

Lev-Ari attributes this breakthrough to a number of factors, including a new atmosphere of openness within Israeli society that allows debate on such taboo topics as incest and homosexuality.

She also credits the efforts of women's rights advocates, whose efforts to publicize the plight of battered women reached a peak in 1990, when Knesset members were debating whether to pass the controversial Law of Family Violence Prevention.

Law Allows Judge To Remove Abusive Spouse

Enacted in June 1991, the law allows a judge to immediately remove an abusive spouse from the home for a period of seven days to six months.

"Under the law the abused spouse is able to press charges, and the judge can issue a restraining order almost immediately," Lev-Ari explained.

"The law and all the publicity surrounding it went a long way toward informing women that they have legal rights, and that they should take advantage of them," she said.

Since then, as women have become less afraid to speak out, several organizations have risen to the challenge.

A number of women's groups, including those in the Orthodox Jewish and Muslim sectors, have set up 24-hour telephone hot lines and other emergency services.

Thanks to intense lobbying by women's groups and others committed to helping battered women, seven shelters have sprung up around the country, including a shelter for Arab women.

All shelters are financed mainly by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and rely heavily on donations. Greater emphasis is also

being placed on identifying abused women and those who are at risk of being abused in the future.

Realizing that the greatest deterrent against abuse is prevention, Na'amat recently inaugurated an in-house education program for female soldiers that deals explicitly with the problem of wife beating and explains ways to identify a potentially abusive partner before marriage.

On an empirical level, surveys conducted by Na'amat show that, contrary to long-held stereotypes, wife abuse in Israel is not limited to the poor and Sephardic segments of the population.

In one study of 200 battered women who had called the organization for help, "more than half were educated and from middle-income homes," said Lev-Ari.

"Education and a nice home are no barrier against wife abuse," she said. "Whether a woman comes from a poor or a wealthy neighborhood, the risk of abuse appears to be about the same.

"But," she said, "the wealthier woman may be more reluctant to seek help than her poorer counterpart."

Women's rights activist Ruth Rasnic attributes this to the fact that "poor women, who often rely on government assistance programs, are used to turning to others for help, whereas middle-class women attach a stigma to seeking help."

"It's usually only the poor who end up in shelters," she said.

In addition, "For middle- and upper-class women, even those with good jobs, leaving the abuser inevitably means lowering their standard of living. And many women, especially housewives in traditional homes, lack job skills and fear they will be left destitute," Rasnic said.

Such was the case with Leah, who endured her husband's abuse because she "didn't have the strength to get help."

Married at a young age, she said she "realized almost from the start that I was in a bad marriage, but once I started having children I felt stuck."

"I told my parents what was happening, but they told me not to leave my husband, that I was better off with him than without him," she said.

Sitting on a couch in the shelter and wringing her hands, she said, "I finally sought help when I realized my husband was sexually abusing our daughter. I finally found the courage to break free, for her sake. Maybe they thought I would become a burden on them if I left him."

JANUARY'S LIVING COST RISE IS SLIGHT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Israel's cost of living rose just 0.7 percent in January, a satisfactory beginning for the new financial year, according to economists here.

The year 1993 ended with a rise of more than 11 percent, largely due to housing costs.

January 1994's relatively low inflation rate may reflect a new formula devised to work out the index, which reduces the impact of rising housing costs on the overall inflation rate.

The JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published Monday, Feb. 21.
