

**ARAFAT CAN ONLY VISIT JERUSALEM  
IF INVITED BY ISRAEL, GOVERNMENT SAYS**  
By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- Responding to rumors that Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat is planning to visit Jerusalem next month, Israeli officials are stating that the PLO leader will not be allowed to come here without an official invitation from the Israeli government.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, replying to the rumor Thursday, said that an official who holds a political appointment on behalf of a national group cannot visit another state without such an invitation.

According to news reports, Arafat is due to visit the autonomous Jericho district on June 15. PLO officials quoted in the reports did not say how long he would remain in Jericho, but they did indicate he will visit the newly autonomous Gaza Strip as well.

During his stay in Jericho, Arafat is expected to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who plans to be in the region at that time.

Israeli officials are meanwhile closely following the progress of Arafat's appointments to the 24-member Palestinian Authority that will be responsible for Palestinian affairs in Gaza and Jericho.

**Arafat Seeking To Include Fundamentalists**

Hanan Ashrawi, who previously served as PLO spokeswoman, has reportedly decided to accept Arafat's nomination to the authority.

Earlier this month she rejected Arafat's invitation to join, saying she would devote her time to a Palestinian human rights organization.

Twenty members of the council have so far been nominated.

Arafat is reported to be attempting to include officials from the fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements, but has so far been unsuccessful.

A senior PLO spokesman said in Jerusalem on Thursday that the authority would start operating "soon" and that this would improve the somewhat chaotic situation now prevailing in Gaza and Jericho.

In a related development, there was concern in Israel this week over reports that two members of Arafat's mainstream Al Fatah movement who were wanted by Israeli authorities for killing a settler were about to join the ranks of the Palestinian police.

Israel is maintaining its right, under the terms of the declaration of principles signed in Washington last fall, to reject recruits to the police force it deems unsuitable.

"We reserve the right to reject those police we feel are inappropriate, and we are checking into the two," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman, Oded Ben-Ami, said Thursday.

He added that Israel has already exercised its veto power over other proposed recruits to the Palestinian police force.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**  
**CANDIDATES JOCKEY FOR POSITION  
IN CAMPAIGN TO HEAD JEWISH AGENCY**  
By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- When the Jewish Agency Assembly convenes here late next month, it will again find itself dealing with how and when to fill the top job.

Acting Chairman Yehiel Leket, a long-time Agency official, is slated to step aside on June 10 according to a timetable agreed to last February during a meeting of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors. That timetable presumed the Labor Party would elect a permanent chairman by then.

No such luck.

The Labor Party appears nowhere near ready to hold such elections.

Leket's tenure is consequently expected to be extended by several months, giving him additional time to make the case that he be allowed to keep the job.

Also angling for the position are Labor Knesset Member Avrum Burg and former Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, who resigned earlier this month from the Likud.

Prime Minister and Labor Party leader Yitzhak Rabin, is understood to be too preoccupied with the peace process to turn his attention to Jewish Agency politics right now. He is also busy picking up the pieces after Labor's stinging defeat in the recent elections of the Histadrut labor federation.

The Agency's chairman, Simcha Dinitz, stepped aside last winter after being indicted for aggravated fraud and abuse of public trust related to the alleged abuse of Jewish Agency credit cards.

His trial is scheduled for July but he has agreed not to stand in the way of elections for a new chairman, regardless of the disposition of his case. His tenure will expire formally at the end of December.

**Attempting To Contain The Damage**

The Dinitz affair rocked the Jewish Agency which, with a budget of \$500 million a year, is the primary recipient of money raised for Israel by the United Jewish Appeal. The leaders of the Diaspora fund-raising organizations sought to contain the damage done to the Agency's reputation and to replace Dinitz as quickly as possible.

The Agency chairman is chosen by the Israeli and Diaspora members of the World Zionist Organization following the selection of candidates by Israel's political parties.

The choice must be ratified by the Diaspora fund-raisers under the leadership of the chairman of the Board of Governors, Mendel Kaplan.

Because the Labor Party now holds the reins of power in Israel, it will choose the main candidate and submit his name to Rabin.

Kaplan agreed last winter to install Leket as acting chairman until June 10, at which point he expected a permanent candidate would be put forward.

Kaplan and several other Diaspora leaders

pushed Leket to agree not to be a candidate for the permanent post, but he refused. He was backed in his refusal by Rabin, with whom he has close ties.

Kaplan and many of the Diaspora fundraisers strongly objected to Leket as a permanent chairman because they believed he did not qualify as the "man of stature and reputation" needed to head the Agency.

Despite Rabin's full agenda, sources say that Kaplan will try to press him to hold a Labor Party election in the coming weeks. As of now, the clear frontrunners in such a race are Leket and Burg.

Labor Party insiders say it has been all but decided that there will be an election within the central committee and not a national party primary, a scenario said to favor Leket.

Many members of the central committee "are older established figures with whom Leket has strong relationships," said a party operative.

"Burg would prefer a national party primary because he has a substantial base of popular support," he said.

#### Outsider May Enter The Fray

At the same time, some insiders venture Kaplan may prod the prime minister to change the rules of the game to allow an "outsider" to enter the fray by bypassing the party machine.

Kaplan told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he would not have any comment on plans for filling the permanent chairmanship until after he meets with Rabin.

That outsider could be Lahat. His recent resignation from the Likud enhances his eligibility for the post. Lahat could not be reached to determine his level of interest in the post.

In any case, party stalwarts say changing the rules is a highly unlikely scenario.

Choosing the chairman "is a piece of the political pie" and Israelis will resist any such an attempt by the Diaspora to wrest it away from them, said one source.

And Rabin, the source continued, is unlikely to want to risk alienating his party so soon after the Histadrut defeat.

Meanwhile, Leket maintains he has not been campaigning but has simply sought to overcome any Diaspora opposition and doubts by doing his job well. "I'm not campaigning now," he said. "I've decided to devote all my time to running the Jewish Agency. I feel I'm successful and have the full support on the political and professional level."

"He's been received well," said one high-level Agency official. "While he is not a dynamic speaker, he says the right things and has increased morale."

Leket, the official continued, is a "team-builder" who includes people in decision-making. "He also pays a good deal of attention to operations and detail" and this "has been missed and is appreciated by the professional cadre."

Meanwhile, Burg is said to be campaigning hard for the job, though he reportedly also has his sights set on a ministerial post within the government.

Rabin is under pressure to fill a few of several empty ministerial portfolios with members of the young Labor guard. While he is known not to like Burg very much, Burg is seen as less

distasteful to Rabin than some others gunning for the jobs.

In any case, Burg has been on his best behavior with Rabin of late. He sided publicly with the prime minister against his friend Haim Ramon, who successfully challenged Labor in the Histadrut elections.

Meanwhile, in a sign of the times, the fervently Orthodox Sephardic Shas Party reportedly wants to get into the Jewish Agency act, following its coalition victory in the Histadrut elections, a new arena for the party.

Fresh on the heels of the win, where Shas backed Ramon, Shas Knesset Member Aryeh Deri reportedly said the party would set its next sights on "conquering" the Jewish Agency and would begin by supporting Burg's candidacy.

#### 'Not All Of Us Are Studying In The Yeshiva'

Deri was not available to confirm the reported remark and Shas Knesset faction chairman Shlomo Benizri said he knew nothing of this alleged new strategic plan.

But Benizri said the idea of getting involved in the Jewish Agency is a logical one.

"Every (institution) interests us because we are participants in the country," he said. "Not all of us from Shas are studying in the yeshiva. We can do any job."

Such activism would be "part of the trend by Shas to spread its wings," said a highly placed government official. "The party wants to penetrate any existing establishments with power and influence and the Agency represents a new sphere of influence."

"Shas wants in because Shas wants the money in the Torah Education Fund (\$5 million) and because it wants to marginalize the Reform" movement, said one Agency official.

In fact, Shas is not a Zionist party and has no role in the WZO-Jewish Agency. The soonest it could have a "seat at the table" of the WZO is in 1997, after elections at the next Zionist Congress.

However, a proposal is pending to expand the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, which some believe could be a vehicle for Shas officials to win representation, if only as individuals.

That proposal, put together by the "Committee of Six," with three representatives from the Board of Governors and three from the WZO, calls for an expansion of the Board of Governors from 74 to 120 members, with the new members to be appointed.

Half of the newcomers would be nominated by the WZO on a technically non-party basis. In this way, individual Shas members could be brought into the Agency by the WZO under pressure from the Labor Party, whose government-led coalition needs Shas support.

The expansion proposal is part of a package of proposed reforms and must be approved next month by the WZO before the Assembly votes on it a week later. It is, in the meantime, being challenged by a Reform-led faction inside the WZO for violating the constitution's democratic principles of elections.

"It upsets the equal partnership that is supposed to be the basis of the Jewish Agency and introduces into the WZO undemocratic representation," said Rabbi Uri Regev, one of the heads of the Reform faction in the WZO.

**GOVERNMENT APPEALS TO SUPREME COURT TO OVERTURN FRAUD FINDING IN IVAN CASE**  
 By Pamela Druckerman

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) -- The Justice Department has petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse a lower court ruling that charged prosecutors with fraud for withholding potentially exculpatory evidence in the case against alleged Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk.

In a petition filed Tuesday, lawyers for the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations argued that the government had acted in good faith at Demjanjuk's 1985 deportation trial before the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

In November of last year, the Cincinnati court overturned its own 1985 deportation order against Demjanjuk, charging that prosecutors had defrauded the court by deliberately withholding information that might have cast doubt on Demjanjuk's identity.

If the fraud charges are now overturned by the Supreme Court, the government may stand a better chance of deporting the retired Cleveland autoworker a second time.

In 1986, following the appeals court deportation ruling, Demjanjuk was extradited to Israel where he was convicted and sentenced to death for wartime crimes at the Treblinka concentration camp in Poland.

But in 1993, the Israeli Supreme Court overturned the conviction, ruling that there was insufficient evidence to prove that Demjanjuk was the notorious "Ivan the Terrible" who committed the Treblinka crimes.

While Demjanjuk, having been stripped of his U.S. citizenship, searched for a country that would accept him, the Cincinnati appeals court ruled that Demjanjuk should be allowed back in the United States.

**Ruling Reversed Because Of Fraud**

Once he returned, the court reversed its earlier deportation ruling on the grounds of prosecutorial fraud.

But while ruling that Demjanjuk may not be Ivan the Terrible, the Israeli Supreme Court found compelling evidence that the retired Cleveland auto worker served as an SS guard at other concentration camps.

Prosecutors, who are now pressing a Cleveland district court to reaffirm its 1981 denaturalization order, hope to show that Demjanjuk was stripped of his citizenship and deported not only for his crimes in Treblinka, but for his activities in the other camps, as well.

They hope a reversal of the fraud charges from the Supreme Court will vindicate the prosecution and help push forward the denaturalization proceedings.

"If left undisturbed, there is a significant likelihood that the (fraud charges) will hinder the government's efforts to remove (Demjanjuk) from the United States," Solicitor General Drew Days wrote in the petition to the Supreme Court.

The government argued that prosecutors involved in the deportation proceedings were found to have acted in good faith.

The failure to produce certain documents did not rise to the level of "egregious and deliberate misconduct, such as bribery of a judge or fabrica-

tion of evidence" that is typically found to constitute fraud on the court.

Jewish groups lauded efforts to appeal the fraud ruling to the Supreme Court.

"We wholeheartedly support the Justice Department's position that the government prosecutors acted in good faith and did not intentionally withhold information from Demjanjuk and the court therefore did not have authority to void its extradition order," ADL National Chairman Melvin Salberg said in a statement.

Jewish groups had also been angered by the appeals court's refusal to adopt the conclusions of an independent judge that the court assigned to investigate the fraud charges in June 1992.

The court had appointed U.S. District Judge Thomas Wiseman Jr. of Nashville to serve as special master to oversee the investigation into the OSI's actions.

The special master later concluded that the Justice Department had not committed fraud in the case.

**VATICAN PLAYING DOWN REPORTS ABOUT DOCUMENT ACCEPTING GUILT FOR SHOAH**  
 By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, May 26 (JTA) -- The Vatican is playing down reports from Jerusalem about a groundbreaking new Vatican document that reportedly will place unprecedented "co-responsibility" and "guilt" for the Holocaust on the Roman Catholic Church.

"It is a draft," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls said of the document. No church authority has approved it yet and it does not reflect an official position of the church at this stage.

He noted, however, that the church had "clearly expressed" its condemnation of anti-Semitism on numerous occasions, including in statements by Pope John Paul II and in the new Universal Catechism.

Italian newspapers Thursday headlined reports of the new draft document as carried by Israeli Radio and commented upon by Rabbi David Rosen, director of interfaith relations and Vatican liaison for the Anti-Defamation League in Jerusalem.

The draft document had surfaced in Jerusalem at a conference of the International Liaison Committee for Relations between Jews and the Vatican.

The acceptance of guilt stated in the document stunned Jewish participants in the conference and was hailed by Jewish interfaith experts in Jerusalem and the United States.

The Italian newspapers called the reported document a "mea culpa" -- self accusation of guilt -- for the Holocaust by the church.

Newspaper reports in Italy described Vatican officials as "irritated" by what La Repubblica newspaper described as "the tendency by the Israeli side to take as given -- and to launch as scoops on the international scene -- matters that are still under consideration."

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Because of the U.S. Memorial Day holiday, the JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published Monday, May 30.

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**UJA PROPOSES \$30 MILLION FUND  
TO SEND AMERICAN YOUTH TO ISRAEL**

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) -- In an example of the traditional Israel-Diaspora relationship being turned on its head, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was solicited for a contribution when he concluded addressing the United Jewish Appeal here this week.

UJA Executive Vice President Brian Lurie made a quiet pitch for \$10 million, to be allocated by the Israeli government to help send 50,000 American Jewish teens to Israel each summer.

The \$10 million would constitute a third of a \$30 million "megafund," Lurie said in his opening address to the UJA National Campaign Conference, held here this week.

The other partners of this nascent fund would be the Jewish Agency for Israel -- the major recipient of UJA funds in Israel -- and Diaspora Jewry.

In launching the idea of a \$30 million fund, the UJA is upping the ante in its effort to make a trip to Israel a universal rite of passage for every American Jewish teen-ager.

"This would be like a beacon, a galvanizing force to bring this Jewish continuity issue to the fore," said Lurie.

At the same time, it reflects an era when UJA leaders feel that the relationship between American and Israeli Jews has moved from one of donors and recipients to one of partnership. And in that case, the question is shifting from what American Jews can do for Israel to that of what Israel can do for American Jews.

"Fifty years ago, Israel needed us. Today, we need Israel," said Richard Pearlstone, UJA's new national chairman.

Currently, the UJA is in the middle of a three-year, \$750,000 commitment, together with the CRB Foundation and other Jewish organizations, to promote local pilot programs encouraging Israel trips for American Jewish youth.

One such local program held its first event Sunday night near Washington, as 750 seventh- and eighth-graders showed up for an "Israel Fest."

**Bumper Cars Become Tel Aviv Traffic Jam**

Held at a local amusement complex -- the bumper cars were transformed into a Tel Aviv traffic jam -- the program hopes to generate continuing excitement about Israel trips.

It is hoped that excitement will pay off in three or four years' time, when the teens travel to Israel as 10th or 11th-graders.

Known as Israel Quest, the program is sponsored by the UJA Federation of Greater Washington, together with local synagogues and youth groups.

The goal is to portray Israel as a "high-adventure" opportunity. The program's logo, as printed on colorful T-shirts, describes Israel: "It's Hot. It's Cool. It's Yours!"

Organizers of the Washington gala were excited about the large turnout.

And in New York, Lurie and other leaders of the national program are excited by the several million-dollar gifts received to sponsor such events, and provide trip subsidies, in cities across the country.

"It's an opportunity for givers interested in the youth arena," Peter Gefen, director of the CRB Foundation's Israel Experience program, said at the UJA conference.

Lurie said that discussions of the \$30 million fund are only at a preliminary stage. While the Jewish Agency share represents UJA money, the Diaspora share might come from other earmarked philanthropic gifts.

Lurie described it as a "renewable" fund. Whether it would be designed to last one year or five is something not yet decided.

Lurie has already had several discussions with Israeli leaders about the fund. His brief conversation with Peres at the campaign conference was only a reminder, he noted.

**HOUSE PASSES FOREIGN AID BILL  
WITH ISRAEL'S INSTALLMENT INTACT**

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, May 26 (JTA) -- Israel's annual \$3 billion installment of U.S. aid moved one step closer to reality this week, as the House of Representatives passed a foreign aid bill by the record margin of 337-87.

Wednesday's vote on the fiscal year 1995 foreign aid appropriations bill was welcomed by the pro-Israel community, which, as in previous years, had lobbied hard for the measure's passage.

"The record vote demonstrates an overwhelming bipartisan commitment to nurturing and strengthening the peace process," Steve Grossman, president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, said in a statement following the vote.

"It is the clearest possible expression of support for strong U.S.-Israel relations, as well as for the Israeli government and its prime minister during these challenging and uncertain times," Grossman continued.

Although the Clinton administration has proposed an overhaul of U.S. foreign aid, administration officials and most in Congress have been supportive of retaining Israel's annual \$3 billion.

The bill contains a special provision allowing for early disbursement of the aid to Israel within 30 days of the bill's enactment, or by Oct. 30, whichever is later.

The bill also calls for an additional \$80 million to aid Israel in refugee resettlement and \$10 million for cooperative development and research programs.

It also contains a provision for a \$7 million investment in Middle East regional cooperation, some of which would go to Israel.

The bill's total calls for \$13.6 billion in foreign aid spending, down \$700 million from last year. Israel remains the largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid.

Egypt, the first Arab country to make peace with Israel, also retained its high aid level of \$2.1 billion.

And the Palestinians, Israel's newest partners, would receive \$78 million under the bill, to be used for health, education, roads and institution-building. Last year's bill provided \$25 million for the Palestinians.

The Senate is considering its own measure, which would also include \$3 billion for Israel, and observers expect a vote on that this summer.