

**WITH THE HELP OF ISRAEL AND AIPAC,
U.S. SENATE DEFEATS MEASURE ON GOLAN**
By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, July 7 (JTA) -- Thanks in part to a concerted effort by the Israeli government and pro-Israel lobbyists, the Senate has overwhelmingly defeated a controversial measure seeking to impose burdensome restrictions for deploying U.S. troops on the Golan Heights as part of any future Israeli-Syrian peace agreement.

In the final hours before Congress adjourned last Friday for a weeklong vacation, senators debated an amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill that analysts say could derail any future Israel-Syria peace accords.

The debate topped a whirlwind week for groups opposed to stationing U.S. peacekeepers on the Golan.

The groups, mostly right-wing Jewish and Christian pro-Israel groups opposed to the current peace process in the Middle East, initially convinced Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) to introduce the measure.

Cochran later withdrew his offer after intense pressure from Israeli officials and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, both of whom consider a debate on the issue premature.

After withdrawing his support for the amendment, Cochran issued a statement saying, "I was under the false impression that the amendment had the support of the Jewish community and the Israeli government."

In the end, Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.), in a move that caught many opponents and supporters alike off guard, introduced the amendment on the Senate floor last Friday.

Wallop is a member of the board of directors of the Center for Security Policy, a conservative think tank that was pushing the amendment.

A 'Moral Victory'

The amendment sought to prevent the Defense Department from spending any money on a Golan Heights U.S. peacekeeping mission until Congress accepts a detailed report on a potential deployment and its limitations.

Despite the 67-3 defeat that came shortly after 10 p.m., Herbert Zweibon, chairman of Americans for a Safe Israel and one of the main proponents of the measure, said the fact that the Senate debate had taken place at all was a "moral victory."

Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and senior AIPAC officials all had lobbied senators to oppose the Wallop amendment, according to Capitol Hill sources.

Senior State Department officials joined the push to defeat the measure as well, arguing the amendment would tie their hands in ongoing delicate negotiations between Israel and Syria.

Last month, 20 groups including AFSL, the Jewish War Veterans, the Center for Strategic Policy, Pro Israel and a handful of pro-Israel Christian groups, joined to form the Coalition for a Secure U.S.-Israel Friendship.

The coalition, opposed to any U.S. troops on

the Golan, took full-page advertisements in The New York Times and Washington Post with a photo of Somalis dragging an American soldier through the streets of Mogadishu.

Until Friday, the coalition had been unsuccessful in finding a member of Congress to back the initiative.

AIPAC and the Israeli government opposed the amendment, arguing that the question of U.S. observers or troops on the Golan is not appropriate at this time.

"The issue at best is premature," said an Israeli official here who asked not to be identified.

"No American soldier would be in a position of defending the State of Israel if and when an agreement is reached with Syria," the official said.

Rabin Joins The Fray

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin joined the fray last week, lashing out at groups pushing the measure.

"This is simply stupidity, a distorted presentation by the Israeli right and the American Jewish right," Rabin told the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot last week.

"The hatred for the government, the desire to put up stumbling blocks on the road to peace, are driving the extreme right out of its mind," the prime minister said.

AIPAC opposed the measure, according to an AIPAC official, because the debate about stationing U.S. troops on the Golan "should be done at a time when an informed debate can take place, when the possible content and context of such a proposal would be known."

Zweibon attacked AIPAC, accusing the pro-Israel lobby of "risking the entire future of American-Israeli relations, for the sake of advancing Rabin's political agenda."

"By paving the way for U.S. troops on the Golan, AIPAC is creating a situation in which Israel will be blamed when Hezbollah terrorists attack GIs on the Golan," Zweibon said.

The debate on the Wallop amendment came one day after Secretary of State Warren Christopher testified on the issue of a U.S. presence on the Golan at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing.

"The United States is not going to preclude itself from assisting the parties if the United States presence or an international presence would make the difference between peace and possible war in that region," said Christopher, who is scheduled to visit the Middle East later this month.

Christopher has promised in a letter to Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), chairman of the Armed Services Committee, to consult Congress if any agreement involving American forces is reached.

Sens. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) and Don Nickles (R-Okla.) were Wallop's lone supporters.

Only Wallop spoke in favor of the amendment during the half-hour Senate debate.

"Before our country and our people get into the business of guaranteeing the borders of

friends and allies against hostile neighbors, we should think long and hard about the potential consequences of such an action," Wallop said.

Among those speaking against the amendment was Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), who said, "We have an opportunity to witness an incredible peace agreement being initiated, and we ought not interfere in any way.

The issue of U.S. troops on the Golan could resurface in the coming weeks when the Senate debates the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.), an opponent of sending U.S. troops to the Golan without congressional restrictions, is considering introducing an amendment during the debate, according to a source on Capitol Hill.

D'Amato was not present at the debate on the issue last Friday.

U.S., ISRAEL AND JORDAN SCHEDULED TO MEET TO START TRILATERAL TALKS By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, July 7 (JTA) -- U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Salam al-Majali are scheduled to meet in Israel's Arava desert on July 20 for the start of trilateral talks that will focus on developing the Middle East.

Two days prior to that meeting, bilateral talks between Israel and Jordan are set to open at the same location on the Israeli-Jordanian border.

The bilateral talks, to take place some 10 miles north of the port city of Eilat, will mark the first time that Arab-Israeli negotiations will take place on Israeli soil.

Recent behind-the-scenes contacts between Israel and Jordan now appear to be moving into the open and at top gear.

In recent interviews, senior Israeli Foreign Ministry staffers, while continuing to be cautious, have been optimistic about making progress on the Jordanian front.

The bilateral talks with Jordan are expected to focus on such issues as water resources, borders, security issues and environmental concerns.

The talks involving the United States are designed to draw up a master plan for the development of the region.

After visiting the Middle East twice in May, Christopher is planning to return to the region on July 17 for a five-day visit, during which he will focus mainly on restarting the long-stalled Israeli-Syrian negotiations.

Last month, Jordan's King Hussein said that progress in his country's negotiations with Israel would not be dependent on progress on the Israeli-Syrian track.

ISRAEL AND DIASPORA JEWS OFFER AID TO VICTIMS OF STRIFE IN RAVAGED RWANDA By Jeannie Rosenfeld

NEW YORK, July 7 (JTA) -- Israel has informed the United Nations that it is ready to offer medical aid to victims of the strife in Rwanda.

This assistance would be in addition to the food and medicine Israel has already sent.

For some months now, Israel has been

discussing with U.N. officials the possibility of sending a mobile medical unit to assist U.N. efforts in Africa. This is part of Israel's attempts to integrate itself fully within United Nations activities, following the decline of anti-Israel rhetoric at the world body.

The U.N. currently has no presence in Rwanda, but is being urged to establish one.

Israel's proposal is not an isolated effort to provide relief to the Rwandan refugees.

Abie Nathan, the prominent Israeli peace activist and humanitarian who built refugee camps in Ethiopia in 1984 and in Somalia in 1992, is now focusing his attention on the plight of Rwandan refugees trapped on the Tanzanian border.

Nathan, who recently visited the Tanzania-Rwanda border to calculate the best way to assist the refugees, wrote in a fund-raising letter, "In spite of all of my experience, I can honestly say I have never seen anything like what I saw on the border of Tanzania."

Though plans are still in their early stages, Nathan hopes to establish a tent city that would provide 20,000 of the over 450,000 refugees with food, shelter and medical care.

While these endeavors are being organized, the Jewish community in Johannesburg is playing a key role in the first airlift of food and clothing to war-torn Rwanda through "Operation Mercy," launched by religious leaders and the Department of Foreign Affairs in South Africa.

Isaac Reznik, executive director of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues, flew this week with the South African delegation to Rwanda. He said the town of Mwanza, on Lake Victoria, had been earmarked as a possible landing strip for emergency supplies from Johannesburg.

"The response from the Jewish community has been excellent," said Reznik, a member of the Operation Mercy committee. "Appeals were made by rabbis from their pulpits and, as always, the Jewish people opened their hearts."

(Contributing to this report were Larry Yudelson at the United Nations and Suzanne Belling in Johannesburg.)

ISRAELI FIRM RANKS HIGH WITH PENTAGON By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 7 (JTA) -- Israel Aircraft Industries ranks as the top foreign company appearing on the Pentagon's list of the 500 companies to receive research and development contracts during fiscal year 1993, according to an annual list published last month by the U.S. Defense Department.

IAI, which was 55th on the list, was also the only foreign firm to appear on another listing of the top 100 companies that received prime contractor awards from the Pentagon in 1993.

IAI ranked 97th on the second list.

The Israeli defense firm received prime contracts worth more than \$113 million from the Pentagon for developing weapons from October 1992 to September 1993, according to the Defense Department. Most of the U.S. funding was directed toward Israel's Arrow anti-missile missile program, which recently concluded its initial testing phase.

Only 13 foreign firms were on the Defense Department's top 500 list -- and four of them were Israeli companies.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG JEWS GETS MORE ATTENTION SINCE SIMPSON CASE

By Pamela Druckerman

NEW YORK, July 7 (JTA) -- The thought of a Jewish man battering his wife often strikes the same cognitive dissonance as the idea of football hero O.J. Simpson standing trial for the murder of his ex-wife.

But in the wake of the much-publicized Simpson case, the volume of calls to shelters and domestic violence agencies catering to Jewish women has jumped, reflecting what experts say is the oft-denied truth that Jews are victims of domestic violence as much as the population at large.

The Family Violence Prevention Center in New York City has had 25 percent more calls to its hot line since the Simpson case started making headlines in mid-June, according to a spokesperson.

And the Family Violence Project of Los Angeles, part of the local Jewish Family Service, has seen the number of new calls for services nearly double, said Lynn Moriarty, director of the center.

"Something as startling as this breaks through a lot of denial," said Moriarty.

Despite ongoing efforts by communal agencies and religious movements to educate Jewish communities about the problem, experts say the perception that Jewish homes are untouched by domestic violence persists.

"This has been the best-kept secret in the whole community for many years," Moriarty said.

Experts who work with abused women from a range of ethnic backgrounds say the patterns of intimidation, abuse and reconciliation in abusive relationships, and the need for control which drives the abuser, easily crosses cultural lines.

"There's really a very interesting universality when it comes to abuse," said Susan Hirschstein, director of residential services for the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, in New York state. "Under the cultural differences, women really have very much in common, especially in this area."

Harder To Admit In Doubting Community

What is different for a Jewish woman are the social forces within the Jewish community that affect when, and whether, she and her family receive help.

Directors of shelters and social service programs around the country say that Judaism's emphasis on family, and the notions of a "nice Jewish husband" and a "happy Jewish home" often lead battered women to hide or deny the abuse.

The fear of failing to live up to these ideals, experts say, makes it more difficult for Jewish women to recognize they are being abused and less likely that they will seek out help.

"In a community that believes this doesn't happen in our community," said Hirschstein, "it's even harder for someone to come out and say, 'Yes, it does.'"

Spousal abuse occurs in 10 percent to 20 percent of Jewish households, according to a 1983 study published in the Journal of Jewish Communal Service. Social workers and others who work with battered Jewish women say the rate

leans more toward 20 percent, consistent with the national average.

The study also showed that unlike the population at large, Jewish women in higher socio-economic brackets may be more likely to be abused than poorer ones.

Workers at shelters said it is not uncommon to have young Jewish professionals arrive at a shelter with nothing but their children and the clothes they are wearing.

Because abusive spouses often maintain complete control over the family's finances, many women lack the financial resources to flee or fear a drastic drop in material lifestyle if they do.

Nevertheless, abuse in the Jewish community crosses economic and denominational lines, with rich, poor, secular and religious women all at significant risk of being battered by their spouses.

There is also great fear among Jews of threatening the family's social position, or simply not being believed because of a spouse's prominence in the community.

In many cases, experts say, women's stories of abuse are not believed, or she herself is blamed for "disrupting" the community or home.

Others hide abuse from their doctors and therapists.

Hirschstein said it is common for batterers to claim their wives deserve to be beaten.

"Women often say, 'He said to me if I'd only had dinner ready at 6 when he walked in,'" said Hirschstein.

This demoralization, as well as social and financial isolation, and the hope that things will somehow get better, is what often keeps battered women from simply running away, experts say.

Constrained By Fear Of Embarrassment

While some look to the Jewish community for support services, others go to programs outside the community for fear of exposing their spouses -- or themselves -- to embarrassment.

Rabbis can sometimes be complicit in this denial, dismissing complaints or counseling women to return home and try to make things better.

"With rabbis, it's a hit-or-miss," said Rabbi Julie Ringold Spitzer, author of "Spousal Abuse in Rabbinic and Contemporary Judaism." She said the chances of getting a responsive rabbi does not vary among the denominations.

As a result of ongoing efforts within the Jewish community -- most of it in the last 10-15 years -- activists say that rabbis and lay leaders have become increasingly aware of the problem, and how to deal with it effectively.

Most larger Jewish communities have task forces or social service agencies dedicated to the topic, with referral and advocacy services, shelters, psychological treatment for batterers, hot lines, community education and other services.

Some of these groups receive partial funding from the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services and from local Jewish federations, as well as from other agencies, local and federal grants and private donations.

Many service organizations and shelters grew out of grass-roots efforts begun in the 1970s and '80s by Jews -- nearly all of them women -- trying to put domestic violence on the agenda.

High on the priority of these groups has been teaching Jewish educators and leaders how to recognize and handle the problem.

JEWISH FESTIVAL DRAWS SCORES OF POLES CURIOUS ABOUT LOST AND LIVELY CULTURE

By Ruth E. Gruber

KRAKOW, Poland, July 7 (JTA) -- Hundreds of Poles cheered, sang and danced into the night last week in Kazimierz, the heart of Krakow's former Jewish district, at a marathon open-air concert of Jewish music.

The concert, which lasted more than five hours, concluded the city's weeklong Fourth Festival of Jewish Culture.

Throughout the festival week, Kazimierz and other parts of the city were the scene of concerts, theatrical performances, exhibitions, film presentations and workshops devoted to various aspects of Jewish cultural heritage.

The overwhelming majority of the thousands of people drawn to the festivities were non-Jewish Poles, though there was a smattering of American Jewish tourists as well as members of the local Jewish community.

City walls and billboards were plastered with the festival's distinctive poster -- a big Star of David composed of brilliantly colored pastel crayons, illuminated by a shaft of light.

The Festival of Jewish Culture was launched in 1988, when Poland was still under a Communist regime, by two young Poles, Janusz Makuch and Krzysztof Gierat.

Like many Polish intellectuals of their generation, the two men had become interested in Poland's rich but tragic Jewish history and heritage.

The festival, held every year, has increasingly become a key part of the summer cultural scene in a city which before the Holocaust was home to nearly 70,000 Jews and which today has about 200.

Most of Krakow's Jews are elderly, although a small youth group, most of whose members recently discovered their Jewish roots, has sprung up in the past six months.

Austrians Also Sponsor Events

Testifying to the festival's impact, an overlapping series of Jewish cultural events -- Vienna-Krakow Days of Jewish Culture -- was sponsored in Krakow by the Austrian Consulate.

There were also various independent events, as well as lectures and exhibitions at the recently opened Center for Jewish Culture in Kazimierz.

Kazimierz contains a wealth of important Jewish historical monuments, including centuries-old synagogues, nearly a score of former prayer houses, two cemeteries, marketplaces and houses.

Szeroka Street, where the festival's final concert was held, is an elongated square at one end of which is the Gothic Old Synagogue, now a Jewish museum. At the other end is the 16th century Rama Synagogue, still in use by local Jews, and the historic Old Jewish Cemetery.

Performers included American klezmer bands Brave Old World, Ellis Island Band and David Krakauer Trio; Bukharian Jewish music ensemble Shashmaqam, and Polish klezmer group Kroke.

The irony of a Jewish culture festival for a predominantly non-Jewish audience was noted.

"I think it should be called a festival of Jewish art and music," not Jewish culture, said Jonah Bookstein, an American Fulbright scholar active in forming the Jewish youth group.

GERMANS CREATE MEMORIAL TO WRITERS WHOSE BOOKS WERE BURNED BY THE NAZIS

By Igal Avidan

BERLIN, July 7 (JTA) -- Groundbreaking ceremonies were held here Sunday for construction of a memorial to the writers, many of them Jewish, whose books were burned by the Nazis.

Israeli sculptor Micha Ullman, whose proposal for the memorial won first prize in a competition, helped lay the cornerstone.

The memorial, which will be an underground library, is scheduled to be completed in 1995. It will display books by such writers as Heinrich Heine and Thomas Mann.

Heine was Jewish. Mann, a non-Jew, married a Jew and introduced estimable Jewish characters into his works, spoke out against the Nazis, went into voluntary exile from Germany and was stripped of his German citizenship by the Nazis.

At the ceremony, which was held where book-burnings took place, Construction Senator Wolfgang Nagel reminded the audience of the importance of the monument at "a time when ultraright ideas (have) become acceptable in solid middle-class circles." He called on Germans to reject intolerance, violence and anti-Semitism.

Ullman's parents escaped from Germany in 1933. His grandparents were detained in a concentration camp.

A teacher at the Art Academy in the eastern German city of Stuttgart, Ullman said he had been planning the monument for 10 years.

He added that the memorial was being built at "the right place at the right moment."

FRENCH PREMIER VISITS AUSCHWITZ

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, July 7 (JTA) -- During a trip to Poland last week, French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur visited the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Balladur refrained from making any public statement during his visit, which took place last Friday. But when he visited the museum on the grounds of the former concentration camp, he wrote in the visitors book:

"One is ashamed for mankind, one is unhappy that such a martyrdom was imposed on so many men, women and children. One shouldn't resign oneself to evil and shouldn't lose hope in strengthening the spirit of fraternity in the world."

Accompanying the French prime minister to Auschwitz were senior Cabinet Minister Simone Veil, a former president of the European Parliament who was herself an inmate at Auschwitz, and Jean Kahn, head of both the European Jewish Congress and of CRIF, an umbrella organization representing French Jewry.

Balladur's visit to Poland was the first official visit to that country by a French premier since 1970.

Balladur initially planned to visit Auschwitz on Saturday, but Kahn stressed that this would make it impossible for the Jewish leaders accompanying the prime minister to come along.

Balladur's wife did not accompany him on the Auschwitz visit. An aide to the prime minister explained her absence by saying, "Mrs. Balladur is traumatized by this dark period of history."