



ISRAELIS ANGERED BY ENTRY OF PLO MEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PAST TERRORIST ATTACKS
By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- One day after Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat returned to take up official residence in the Gaza Strip, a furor erupted between the PLO and Israel over the entry of four PLO officials with records of terrorist acts against Israeli civilians.

The four were among 13 PLO officials who accompanied Arafat to Gaza on Tuesday, when he arrived to begin taking charge of day-to-day-responsibilities for running Palestinian affairs in the newly autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho.

When Israeli security forces discovered their presence, Israel forced three of the men to leave Gaza immediately. Israel also moved to close the border crossings separating Gaza from Egypt and the West Bank from Jordan.

The fourth Palestinian eluded the Palestinian police in Gaza until Wednesday evening, when he turned himself in and was expelled.

Speaking to Israel Radio on Wednesday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he took "a most serious view" of the attempt made by "someone close to Arafat" to smuggle in men whose entry Israel had long firmly opposed.

"We shall make it quite clear that it would be better not to try such tricks on us," said Rabin.

Israeli and Palestinian security men huddled together for hours to resolve what initially looked like a major crisis of confidence.

Under the terms of the May 4 Cairo accords for implementing self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, Israel may veto the entry of Palestinians it deems undesirable.

The four, who are among those on Israel's blacklists, have consistently been refused entry by Israel.

Two Helped Plan 1974 Ma'alot Attack

Two of those smuggled in -- Mamdouh Nofal and Nihad Jayousi -- helped plan the murderous 1974 attack on a school in the Galilee development town of Ma'alot in which 21 Israeli teenagers were killed. An Israeli soldier and three Palestinian terrorists were also killed in the raid on the northern Israeli town.

Nofal and Jayousi left Gaza on Wednesday, as did Mustafa Liftawi, also known as Abu Firas, who was among the planners of the massacre at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich in which 11 Israeli athletes were killed.

Dr. Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli Arab who serves as a close adviser to Arafat, drove the three men out of Gaza into Egyptian territory.

Tibi later said he would wait at Gaza's Palestine Hotel -- Arafat's new beachfront headquarters -- for the fourth man.

Jihad Amarneh, the fourth man smuggled into Gaza, gave himself up to the Palestinian police when he heard that Arafat had ordered him to surrender.

A number of Palestinian leaders -- including

Yasser Abed Rabbo, the newly named minister of information in the Palestinian governing council -- were not permitted entry into the self-rule zones during the border closings.

The crisis with the PLO officials came just a few days after Rabin had ordered a temporary closing of all Gaza crossings into Israel.

Rabin's order was issued Sunday after Palestinian workers, apparently angered over long bureaucratic delays at the crossings, rioted for three days at the Erez crossing at the northern end of Gaza. The closure of the Gaza crossings lasted some 24 hours and was lifted by the time Arafat returned to Gaza on Tuesday.

In Washington, a State Department spokeswoman commented on the entry of the PLO terrorists, saying, "An incident like this works against reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis.

"There needs to be a kind of coordination that would preclude incidents of this type in the future," she said Wednesday.

ISRAEL WELCOMES SENATE PROPOSAL MAKING PLO AID CONDITIONED ON COVENANT CHANGE
By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, July 13 (JTA) -- The Israeli government and American Jewish groups have welcomed a move afoot in the Senate to withhold U.S. aid to the Palestinians until the Palestine Liberation Organization amends its covenant eliminating calls for the destruction of the State of Israel.

Israeli Embassy officials here have expressed support for the move, but cautioned that the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza and Jericho still needs foreign assistance to govern effectively.

"Any steps that would help the Palestinian authority comply with their commitments by letter and by spirit would be welcome," an Israeli Embassy official said. "But we need to balance this concern with the need for the Palestinian Authority to get funds."

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) was expected to introduce an amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill when the full Senate debated the bill this week. Jewish lobbyists and Capitol Hill staffers expected no serious opposition during the floor debate.

The measure adds teeth to existing laws that mandate PLO compliance with peace agreements with Israel in order to receive U.S. foreign aid. The Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill proposes \$78 million in aid to the PLO.

Sens. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.), Richard Shelby (D-Ala.) and Larry Craig (R-Idaho) agreed to co-sponsor Specter's proposal. Specter and Shelby are co-chairs of the Senate Peace Accord Monitoring Group, set up recently to monitor PLO compliance with the peace accords with Israel.

On the eve of the Senate debate, intense negotiations between Specter's office and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had not yet resolved disputes over the amendment's language.

Among the most contentious points of dis-

agreement was how long to give the PLO to amend its covenant.

Currently, the administration must certify PLO compliance with the peace accords every six months.

Specter's amendment will grant the PLO either six months or one year to comply with its agreement with Israel to delete all references in its covenant that call for the destruction of the State of Israel.

At a meeting in Paris last week, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin he will convene the Palestine National Council "in the coming months" for a vote to amend the covenant.

Khalil Foutah, deputy director of the PLO's Washington office, said this week, "What Arafat said in Paris still stands and the American Congress should not interfere."

Specter's amendment, part of an ongoing effort in Congress to ensure PLO compliance with peace agreements with Israel, drew praise from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

According to an AIPAC official, the organization is supporting the Specter initiative "because it requires the PLO to comply with commitments the PLO has made repeatedly during the past year and because repealing this language would enhance progress in the peace process."

Jess Hordes, Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League, also welcomed the proposed legislation. "The amendment doesn't up the ante beyond what Arafat has promised to do, but provides an important incentive," he said.

Specter's amendment also removes language in the proposed bill that would allow the President to waive PLO compliance regulations and dispense funds to the organization if it is in the best national interest.

The amendment also enables Congress to override a presidential determination that the PLO is in compliance if the legislative body makes a different determination.

White House officials have voiced concerns over those portions of the amendment limiting presidential authority.

When the bill comes up for floor debate, D'Amato was also considering introducing a controversial amendment seeking to impose burdensome restrictions for deploying U.S. troops on the Golan Heights as part of any future Israeli-Syrian peace agreement.

Last week, the Senate overwhelmingly defeated a similar proposal sponsored by Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) that analysts say could derail any future Israel-Syria accord.

The amendment seeks 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.

RABIN SIGNS ACCORD WITH SMALL PARTY; MOVE WILL EXTEND HIS KNESSET MAJORITY By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin came a step closer to extending his majority in the Knesset this week when he signed a coalition agreement with a small right-wing party.

The agreement with Yi'ud, a breakaway from

Rafael Eitan's right-wing Tsomet Party, was signed Tuesday and was expected to be formally ratified later in the week.

The agreement enables Rabin's governing coalition to extend its majority in the Knesset by at least two, and possibly three, members.

As a result of the agreement, Rabin will have control of 58 or 59 out of 120 Knesset seats.

His majority still depends on the support of Israeli Arab Knesset members, but that could soon change, since the agreement with Yi'ud was expected to pave the way for the return to the coalition of the fervently Orthodox Shas Party, which left the government late last year.

Shas officials said Tuesday that their return to the coalition would be facilitated by the addition of Yi'ud, which they said would act as a counterbalance to the left-wing Meretz bloc, another coalition member.

Rabin has gone all out to extend the Jewish basis of his government.

For months, he has been vulnerable to charges made by the right wing that his government's majority in the Knesset is only sustainable with the help of the Arab parties.

The charge is particularly grave at a time when the Rabin government is pledged to a peace policy that may involve far-reaching territorial concessions to Arab states.

Under the new coalition agreement, Yi'ud will likely get one Cabinet seat, with its leader, Gonen Segev, becoming minister of energy. The post is currently held by Moshe Shahal, who is also police minister.

Segev's deputy, Alex Goldfarb, is likely to become deputy housing minister.

The third Yi'ud Knesset member, Esther Salmovitz, has serious reservations about joining the coalition, and there is speculation that she may seek to return to Tsomet, the nationalist party from which the three members of Yi'ud defected earlier this year.

Shas expects to get control of two ministries, the interior and religious affairs portfolios, when and if it returns to the coalition.

The Cabinet reshuffle may enable Labor to add another minister to the Cabinet. Yossi Beilin, deputy foreign minister, is the likely candidate.

NAMIR BACK HOME AFTER BRAIN SURGERY By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 13 (JTA) -- After undergoing successful brain surgery in Switzerland last month, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir returned home to Israel on Sunday night.

Looking well as she disembarked without assistance from an El Al plane, Namir said, "I hope to convalesce quickly and to return to work."

She said that her Swiss doctors had expressed satisfaction with the operation, in which a tumor was removed from her brain. It was not reported whether the tumor was diagnosed as benign or malignant.

Namir said she still had problems with sight in one eye but said she had been assured this problem should clear up soon.

Namir said she would remain home under medical care for a week or so, and then gradually resume her duties.

SUPREME COURT NOMINEE ENDORSES WALL SEPARATING GOVERNMENT AND RELIGION

By Michael Shapiro

WASHINGTON, July 13 (JTA) -- In his confirmation hearings this week, Supreme Court nominee Stephen Breyer endorsed a high wall of separation between church and state.

The man who is expected to become the second Jewish justice on the current court also said he believes a woman has a constitutional right to an abortion.

These views drew praise from several Jewish organizations that are active in these areas.

The Senate Judiciary Committee was expected to confirm Breyer this week as the 108th justice.

He will replace Justice Harry Blackmun, who retired last month. He will also join Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the first Jew to sit on the court since 1969.

In his testimony, Breyer said the wall between church and state has become even more important today than when the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment was first written by the framers of the Constitution.

That clause says Congress "shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion."

In response to a question on the Establishment Clause from Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Breyer placed himself firmly on the side of a strong separation between religion and government.

"We are a country of so many different people, of so many different religions, and it's so terribly important to members of each religion to be able to practice that religion freely, to be able to pass that religion on to their children," Breyer said.

Each religion, Breyer said, "would not want the state to decide with some other religion, so each must be concerned that the state remains neutral."

'A Sensitivity To Religious Liberties'

Mark Pelavin, Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress, said that while there were no "grandiose pronouncements on his philosophical approach to religious liberty issues," Breyer's early comments were "encouraging."

"Breyer displayed a sensitivity to religious liberties," Pelavin said.

In his testimony, Breyer expressed his belief that the state can aid religion in some instances, such as if a house of worship is on fire.

"Nobody thinks that you're not going to send the fire brigade if the church catches fire. Nobody thinks that the church doesn't have the advantage of public services," he said. "The question becomes: When is it too much?"

Referring to the Supreme Court's recent decision to close the Kiryas Joel school district created exclusively to serve disabled Chasidic children in upstate New York, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) asked Breyer if the court should give a clearer ruling on "what governmental accommodation of religion is constitutionally permissible."

Breyer said the court has been clear "about favoritism" and "not having one religion over another, not favoring religion over non-religion."

Breyer refused to comment further, as is customary with Supreme Court nominees who want

to avoid commenting on cases that might come before the court.

The senators questioned Breyer on a broad range of issues, including abortion rights and the death penalty.

"The death penalty is settled law," Breyer said. "Applying the death penalty in some circumstances does not violate the cruel and unusual punishment law."

As for abortion, Breyer said that *Roe v. Wade* "is the law" and it was "recently affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States."

Sammie Moshenberg, director of the Washington office of the National Council of Jewish Women, said she is "clearly pleased Breyer has affirmed his belief that *Roe* is settled law."

L'OREAL GIVES \$1 MILLION TO CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN ISRAEL

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, July 13 (JTA) -- L'Oreal, the world's largest cosmetics company, will donate \$1 million to support a new campaign in Israel to combat traffic accidents.

The goal of the campaign is to change the behavior of both Israeli drivers and pedestrians, according to L'Oreal executives, who are based in Paris.

Last year, more than 500 Israelis died in road accidents, one-third of them pedestrians.

Since the founding of the state, almost 20,000 Israelis have been killed on the roads -- about the same number that have died in wars and terrorist attacks.

In an attempt to end the unprecedented carnage on the country's roads, the campaign's organizers have enlisted the aid of dozens of children, who will appear in advertisements geared toward both adults and children.

The ads will focus on behavior patterns of children and youth as pedestrians and future drivers. Children in the ads will call their parents' attention to the importance of safe driving.

At a news conference this week announcing the L'Oreal donation, Knesset member Avraham Burg of Labor, chairman of the Knesset Education Committee, said research shows that changing the driving habits of many Israelis requires real behavior modification.

"The support we are getting from L'Oreal and a host of Israeli public figures is going to allow us to get the safe-driving message out in a new and powerful way," he said.

L'Oreal's donation comes against the backdrop of the company's rocky relationship with Israel. Twice in the last three years the French cosmetics giant has been charged with complying with the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

Civil suits against the company have been filed in the United States and France by two French brothers, Jean and David Frydman.

The suits allege that L'Oreal bribed Syrian authorities to get off their blacklist after the company's chairman, Bernard Dalle entered into a business arrangement with Jean Frydman, who also holds Israeli citizenship.

There have been reports that L'Oreal had initiated discussions with Israeli officials to try to smooth relations. In May, L'Oreal announced it had acquired 30 percent of Interbeauty, Israel's principal distributor of L'Oreal cosmetics.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
JEWS IN BARCELONA ARE ACTIVE,
BUT DIVIDED ALONG ETHNIC LINES**
By Tom Tugend

BARCELONA, Spain (JTA) -- With the arrival of 94-year-old Alberto Arditti, the oldest Jew in Barcelona, a minyan is present and Rabbi Gabriel Alfasi, a Sephardic Jew from Morocco dressed like a Lubavitcher Chasid, opens the Sabbath service.

The sanctuary of the Maimonides Synagogue, with a central bimah and lighted by nine brass and crystal chandeliers, is for Sephardic worshippers. Upstairs is the much smaller Ashkenazic chapel, in use only during the High Holy Days.

In the same building are the offices of the Comunidad Israelita de Barcelona (Jewish Community of Barcelona), a mikvah, library, kosher snack bar and auditorium.

The community supports or supervises a Sephardic day school attended by 110 boys and girls, an impressive sports complex and a kosher butcher store.

When the building was dedicated on Rosh Hashanah in 1954, it marked a major milestone in the 2,000-year history of Spanish Jewry as the first synagogue erected on Iberian soil since the expulsion of the Jews in 1492.

Before 1954, the regime of dictator Francisco Franco allowed Jewish services in private homes, but worshippers had to obtain a separate government permit for each Sabbath service, recalls Leon Sorensen, the community executive director.

Today, official registration figures list 485 heads of Jewish households in Barcelona, which Sorensen multiplies by an average of 4.5 family members to arrive at close to 2,200 Jewish souls.

With a slightly larger figure for Madrid, and smaller numbers in a dozen cities, the Jewish population count in Spain stands at about 12,000.

Of the present Barcelona Jewish community, 75 percent is Sephardic and the remaining 25 percent Ashkenazic. The Ashkenazic community consists mainly of descendants of Central European refugees.

South American Jews Didn't Affiliate

The first wave of Sephardim arrived from Turkey and Bulgaria at the end of World War I, and now constitutes some 30 percent of the Sephardic community. The bulk of the Sephardim hail from Morocco, arriving in Barcelona after that country declared its independence from France in 1956.

About 500 to 700 Jews have never affiliated with the community. They come mainly from Argentina or elsewhere in Latin America and fled upheavals in their native countries in the 1980s.

Although the initial Sephardic immigrants have now produced two or more generations of Spanish-born descendants, they are still divided between the "Turks" and the "Moroccans."

Intermarriage between Sephardim and Ashkenazim is a rarity, and between Jews and Gentiles practically unknown.

"Whenever we start worrying that a Jewish boy or girl is getting too friendly with an outsider, we send them to Israel," says Sorensen.

Through this and perhaps more idealistic motives, some 15 to 20 young people make aliyah to Israel each year.

The age distribution of Barcelona's Jews has

not been calculated, but the number of life-cycle events points to an aging but viable community. In 1993, says Sorensen, there were six or seven circumcisions, four or five B'nai Mitzvot, an equal number of weddings and some 15 to 20 funerals.

Most of the Sephardic immigrants started as small shopkeepers or tradesmen, but their children and grandchildren, like those of the Ashkenazim, have gone to college and become professionals.

There are few millionaires and none of the immense contrasts in wealth found in other Hispanic Jewish communities.

Considerable assistance in money and training programs has come from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which maintains an active presence in the city.

Anti-Semitism is all but unfelt because "most people here have never seen a Jew in their lives and have no idea what a Jew is," observes Sorensen.

"We sometimes get visits from high-school classes, and they'll ask questions like 'Why don't you look different?' or 'Why did you kill God?' Their ignorance is unbelievable."

Names do not mean anything either, adds Sorensen. "If your name is Moshe Cohen and your grandfather came from Turkey, then you're considered a Turk, not a Jew."

Sorensen got his unlikely Scandinavian surname through his father, who emigrated from Germany to Norway, where he changed his name before moving to Spain. Leon Sorensen's mother is of Moroccan descent, and he considers himself a member of the Sephardic community.

The community's young rabbi, only three months at the post, also comes from a Moroccan family, but studied at a Chabad yeshiva in Brooklyn. His all-black dress code reflects this experience and his congregants have jocularly lengthened his name from Alfasi to Alfasinsky.

Traces of the old Jewish community of the Middle Ages are found mainly at two sites. One is the name of the city's landmark Montjuic, or Jews' Mountain, main site of the 1992 Olympics.

More insistent reminders are found in the names of the narrow, winding roads and historical markers of the city's Call, or old Jewish Quarter, within the Gothic Quarter.

It is said the word "call" comes from "kahal," the Hebrew word for community, and a part of the wall that contained the Jewish neighborhood remains as part of an old house in the larger Gothic Quarter.

RUSSIANS WIN PRIZE FOR TEMPLE DESIGN
By Lisa Glazer

MOSCOW (JTA) -- Russian architecture students Alexander Tsimailo and Alexei Ilyin recently won first prize in a synagogue design competition organized by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Moscow Jewish Art Center and Moscow Institute of Architecture.

The winners worked together on an architectural model for a synagogue. Their entry was one of 45 submitted by students at the Moscow Architecture Institute.

The JDC said the synagogue design competition was the first of its kind here in 75 years.

The winning entry and others will be displayed at JDC headquarters in New York and at its offices in Jerusalem.