

**ISRAEL CHOOSING VOLUNTEERS FOR HAITI
IN WAKE OF A PEACEFUL U.S. OCCUPATION**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Israeli authorities are currently selecting candidates from among those volunteering to serve as part of an Israeli police force in Haiti.

Gavriel Amir, the retired chief police inspector and former prison commissioner, will head the Israeli contingent, which will include 30 current members of the police as well as retirees.

The Israeli detachment will be part of a 1,500-member international team of police that will take over civilian peacekeeping duties in Haiti. The force will follow the arrival of American forces there this week.

It is not yet known when the Israelis and other members of the international peacekeeping force will go to Haiti.

The police will be equipped with pistols and will be instructed to open fire only in self-defense, Amir said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin authorized the contingent on Sept. 11, after President Clinton telephoned for Israeli assistance in the effort to bring democratic rule to Haiti.

Clinton did not request Israeli military involvement, but was seeking civilian police participation to bring about the return of law and order in Haiti.

While the exact duties of the international civilian peacekeeping force have not yet been defined, the Israelis chosen for the police unit are expected to begin learning the rudiments of the Creole patois spoken by the majority of the islanders.

The official language of Haiti is French, but the local population uses a Creole tongue spoken by few people outside the Caribbean nation.

**JERUSALEM MEN ARRESTED AS SEPARATE
PROBE OF UNDERGROUND CONTINUES**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Israeli police this week arrested two residents of the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City on suspicion of stealing weapons and other equipment from the army.

The men arrested Thursday, brothers Hananel and Gabi She'ar Yashuv, 21 and 18, are both members of the Israel Defense Force's elite Golani Brigade.

Senior police officers said that the brothers are not connected with the violent right-wing Jewish underground suspected of planning violent attacks against Arabs.

Earlier this month, the General Security Services arrested at least nine members of the underground, most of whom are from the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba.

This week, security authorities arrested another suspected member of the underground, Rabbi Meir Koren, 28, a teacher living in Kiryat Arba.

Meanwhile, Lt. Ya'acov Pinto was released

from custody Wednesday after being held for 10 days in jail.

He had been suspected of turning over explosives to Lt. Oren Edri, the first person detained in the right-wing conspiracy case.

Also on Wednesday, brothers Eitan and Yehoyada Kahalani, who also were suspected of participation in the underground terrorist organization, were ordered detained for an additional eight days by the Haifa Magistrate's Court.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, some 20 demonstrators were detained and four wounded when Jewish settlers attempted to storm the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, which has remained closed since the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre.

The clash between the demonstrators and Israeli security forces began when thousands of Jews from Hebron and neighboring Kiryat Arba marched on the cave to hold a prayer meeting and demonstration inside the cave in defiance of army orders.

The disturbance was not quelled until nightfall, when police herded the demonstrators onto buses.

The Tomb of the Patriarchs has undergone a series of recent renovations designed to increase security at the site, which is holy to Jews and Muslims alike.

**DETENTION OF PALESTINIAN OFFICER
DRAWS ATTENTION TO CAR-THEFT RING**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Israeli police this week detained a Palestinian police officer who was driving a stolen Israeli car, drawing attention to the growing phenomenon of car thefts here.

Monir Barghutti, 39, was detained after he stopped Wednesday for a routine check at a roadblock on the outskirts of the autonomous West Bank enclave of Jericho.

During the course of the check, Israeli security officials discovered that the car he was driving had been stolen from Tel Aviv two weeks earlier.

According to a senior Israeli police source, the car was stolen by a Palestinian who had been among those released recently from Israeli prisons as part of the implementation of the Palestinian self-rule accord.

The former prisoner, said the source, is known to have stolen a number of vehicles and smuggled them into Jericho.

Barghutti was dressed in civilian clothes at the time of his detention. A member of the security branch of the Palestinian police, he serves as a bodyguard for Yasser Abed Rabbo, the information minister in the Palestinian Authority.

According to Israeli police, the car was one of about 30 stolen vehicles being held by the Palestinian police at their Jericho base.

Israeli officials said they lodged a formal complaint with the Joint Liaison Office, a group of top Israeli and Palestinian officials overseeing implementation of the accord. They charged that the Palestinians have rejected all requests to

return the stolen vehicles to their original Israeli owners.

Earlier this week, an Israeli television station aired footage of a low-level helicopter search for stolen Israeli vehicles spirited away to the West Bank.

The footage revealed a number of Israeli cars and commercial vehicles parked in rows at garages where workers were busy taking them apart for spare parts and repainting them for resale.

The Palestinian police commander in the Gaza Strip, Brig. Gen. Ghazi Jabali, has admitted that there are at least 5,000 stolen Israeli cars in the Gaza self-rule area.

But he said Israelis were selling their cars cheaply to Palestinians, then claiming they were stolen in order to collect insurance money.

Israeli police officials said they hope the Palestinian police will cooperate with them in the search for the stolen cars, instead of using the vehicles as a cheap supply source for their own car pools.

ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS TALK PEACE IN THE ITALIAN COUNTRYSIDE OF ASSISI

By Polly Stroud

ROME, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Meeting in the Umbrian hill town of Assisi where St. Francis was born eight centuries ago, "friendly enemies" Yossi Beilin and Faisal Husseini called for a speed-up in the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians.

Beilin, Israel's deputy foreign minister, and Husseini, who headed the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, attended an annual assembly of religious leaders of all faiths sponsored by a Rome-based Roman Catholic lay organization dedicated to furthering peace and ecumenicism worldwide.

The recent three-day meeting at Assisi coincided with talks in Oslo, during which Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat agreed to put aside differences over East Jerusalem in order to free up \$2.3 million in donor aid for Palestinian self-rule projects.

Beilin and Husseini, presented as "friendly enemies," appeared together at a panel discussion on "Israel-Palestine: The Challenge of Peace."

The panel was chaired by Cardinal Carlo Maria, archbishop of Milan, who is currently considered a leading candidate to succeed Pope John Paul II.

The panel members agreed that outstanding key issues are the Palestinian prisoners still in Israeli jails, the status of Jerusalem and economic development in the Palestinian autonomous territories.

Both Beilin and Husseini urged swifter action to seek accord so as not to lose the momentum of the peace process.

While asserting that both Israeli and Palestinian leaders are "willing to pay the price for peace," Beilin said it is difficult to convince Israelis of the need to free Palestinians who have assassinated Israeli children and students.

Beilin also underlined the crucial need for economic aid for the Palestinian-governed territories, and said it is up to Israel to help produce that aid.

"If the inhabitants of the Middle East don't see tangible development, they will not support peace," he said. "If the poor of the West Bank and Gaza don't see some rays of hope, they will say what is always said after a peace agreement: that the leaders sign but we are always left in poverty and with the same problems, without any benefits.

"We Israelis," the deputy foreign minister said, "must become promoters throughout the world of aid to stabilize the new Palestinian entity so that peace is something tangible and gives the people the sensation of having something new in their lives."

The community of St. Egidio, which organized the Assisi meeting, announced that it would call a weeklong meeting in Jerusalem in May 1996 in order to involve religious as well as political leaders in the ongoing Middle East peace process.

St. Egidio also backed a drive to collect 1 billion lire (\$660,000) in Italy to support projects in Gaza, Jericho, Hebron and other West Bank communities.

The Assisi assemblies began eight years ago when the pope invited leaders of all the world's faiths to gather with him in the medieval hill town where St. Francis, who devoted his life to the promotion of peace, was born in 1182.

John Paul did not travel to Assisi for this year's meeting but sent a message endorsing its work.

Those attending included President Mario Soares of Portugal and other world leaders, as well as Rabbi David Rosen of Jerusalem; Mohammed Moktar Sellami, the grand mufti of Tunisia; Roman Catholic Archbishop Wilfrid Fox Napier of Durban, South Africa; and leaders of the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Shinto and Tenri Kyo faiths.

SOLDIERS FIRE ON SUSPICIOUS GLIDER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Israeli soldiers fired this week on what they said was a glider flying from Jordan over Israeli airspace.

The soldiers, on duty near the Allenby Bridge crossing between Jordan and the West Bank, said they began firing after they spotted the glider flying low into Israel in the early morning hours on Wednesday.

Security officials immediately launched a daylong search of the area, but no traces of the glider or its pilot could be found.

It was not clear if the pilot had been hurt or if the glider went down.

Several previous attempts have been made by terrorists to use hang gliders to sail silently into Israel, but most attempts have failed.

In November 1987, a Palestinian guerrilla flew a motorized hang glider into Israel from Lebanon. He managed to kill six Israeli soldiers at an army camp before he was killed.

Since then, Israeli security has used sophisticated radar equipment, specially designed to pick out intruding light aircraft, to prevent the recurrence of such attacks.

In honor of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, JTA will not publish a Daily News Bulletin on Wednesday, Sept. 28, and Thursday, Sept. 29.

THIS TIME AROUND, QUEBEC'S JEWS NOT WORRIED BY OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS
By Bram D. Eisenthal

MONTREAL (JTA) -- Although the separatist Parti Quebecois led by Jacques Parizeau emerged victorious in last week's widely watched provincial elections here, the Jewish community expressed little worry that the vote would lead to Quebec's secession from the rest of Canada.

When the PQ first won a Quebec provincial election in 1976, panic over a possible secession abounded, prompting a mass exodus of Jews from the capital of Quebec.

Many Jews here feel that the separatist movement promotes a nationalist agenda that would work against the interest of the Jews.

As a result of that exodus, Toronto surpassed Montreal as the nation's major Jewish population center.

But the Sept. 12 election prompted little, if any, such concern, primarily because of the optimism among English-speaking Quebecers that any future referendum on separation from Canada would fail.

Premier-elect Parizeau is expected to hold such a referendum within the next year.

The PQ previously governed the province from 1976 to 1985, but a similar referendum on Quebec independence held by the government of Rene Levesque in 1980 was defeated by close to 60 percent.

Jack Jedwab, interim director of the Quebec region of the Canadian Jewish Congress, attributed the Jewish community's calm this time around to advance warning.

In 1976, he said, "people were surprised at the strength of a new PQ party. This time around, the PQ victory is no surprise, thanks to the many polls.

"And, as we were in 1976, we can be vehemently opposed to the separatist platform of the PQ while still working with them at the business of the day as it concerns our community," Jedwab said.

In this latest election, the PQ took 77 seats in the Quebec National Assembly, while the Liberal Party of defeated Premier Daniel Johnson received 47 seats.

Offended Jews By Refusing To Speak English

But in the popular vote -- closely watched for how it might portend sentiment in the upcoming referendum -- the PQ narrowly beat the Liberals 44.7 percent to 44.3 percent.

The voting confirmed recent polls that said Quebecers wanted a change in government -- the Liberals had governed for two consecutive terms -- but that more than 60 percent of the voters want to remain a part of Canada.

Several months ago at a Canadian Jewish Congress plenary, Parizeau, then the leader of the opposition, offended Jewish community members by refusing to speak any English to a mainly English-speaking audience during his address.

Asked whether he felt this represents Parizeau's stance toward the Jewish community, Jedwab said he did not feel it would be a problem.

"We will continue to meet with the leadership of the government, with the PQ, as we did with the Liberals. Our position is to better inform

Mr. Parizeau and his team of the perceptions of the Jewish community and of our concerns," he said.

In a statement, the Canadian Jewish Congress congratulated Parizeau for his victory, but urged members of the new government to "direct their energies to the pressing economic and social challenges currently confronting all Quebecers."

The group's regional chairman, Manual Schacter, also invited members of the National Assembly to promote a Quebec which is "open, pluralistic, tolerant and respectful of fundamental rights and freedoms."

B'nai Brith Canada also indicated its eagerness to establish good relations with the PQ, but stressed that separation was not an option of the community.

NEO-NAZI POLITICAL PARTY RALLIES DESPITE ATTEMPTS TO BAN MEETINGS
By Gil Sedan

BONN, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- The extreme right-wing National Democratic Party held two political rallies this week despite attempts by local authorities to prevent the meetings.

Authorities in Bonn and Erlangen, in Bavaria, had attempted to prevent the neo-Nazi party from holding the rallies in their respective cities. But party organizers appealed to the courts, which gave the green light for the meetings.

Only 30 people came to the rally in Bonn, while 100 people participated in the Erlangen rally. In both cases, the demonstrators were outnumbered by the police and leftist protesters.

Gunter Deckert, chairman of the National Democratic Party, spoke at both rallies.

Deckert stood at the center of a recent national scandal after a state court in the southwestern city of Mannheim gave him a one-year suspended sentence and a fine for denying at a public rally that the Holocaust ever took place and for making derogatory remarks against the Jews.

Holocaust denial and making statements aimed at inciting racial hatred are punishable offenses under German law.

Meanwhile, some 100 neo-Nazis rampaged through the eastern German town of Jena last Friday, chanting neo-Nazi slogans such as "foreigners out" and "Germany for the Germans."

GERMANY TOUGHENS DENIAL LAWS
By Miriam Widman

BERLIN, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Germany's lower house of Parliament this week passed a wide-ranging crime bill that includes provisions making it easier to prosecute those who profess that the Holocaust never took place.

The bill passed by the Bundestag also includes a provision increasing the maximum sentence to five years' imprisonment for such an offense, known here as the "Auschwitz Lie."

An initial proposal called for a three-year prison term, but politicians from the opposition Social Democratic Party pushed for the tougher sentence, which has widespread public support.

The bill's passage took place after German lawmakers crafted a compromise Monday in a conference committee. The upper house of Parliament is expected to approve the bill.

ANTI-SEMITISM AND RACISM: JEWS JOIN BLACKS TO REVISIT THE EXPLOSIVE ISSUES
 By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- A stellar panel of black and Jewish clergy, academics and intellectuals gathered recently to discuss racism and anti-Semitism, but parted ways without coming to any agreement on how to jointly address the problems.

The diverse group of thinkers at "A Symposium on Anti-Semitism and Racism" on Sept. 18 in Manhattan was brought together by Ephraim Isaac, an expert on Semitic languages and an Ethiopian-born Jew.

Isaac is director of the Institute of Semitic Studies in Princeton, N.J.

Participants in his conference included representatives of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Among them were Marshall Breger of the Heritage Foundation; Rev. Calvin Butts, a political activist in the black community and senior minister of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church; David Brion Davis, an expert on the slave trade and a professor of history at Yale University; Imam El-Amin, spiritual leader of the Atlanta Mosque and an adviser to Imam Wallace Deen Muhammed, the leader of mainstream black Muslims in America; Murray Friedman, director of the American Jewish Committee's Philadelphia office; paleontologist and popular author Stephen J. Gould; and Krister Stendahl, former bishop of Stockholm and dean of the Harvard Divinity School.

As both a black African and a Jew, Isaac said he felt compelled to convene the symposium because of his own experiences. He has confronted both racism and anti-Semitism, sometimes in the same encounter, he said.

He recounted facing that double jeopardy just a few nights before the symposium, when his car broke down on the highway the night Yom Kippur ended.

Isaac, driving back to his home in Princeton from Brooklyn, where he observed the holy day with a Yemenite congregation, had no cash on hand.

Meeting Both Hatreds On Erev Yom Kippur

The tow-truck operator demanded payment up front, saying that he "didn't trust an African" to pay him later by credit card, recounted Isaac. When he quoted a hefty fee and Isaac began negotiating, the trucker asked, "Are you trying to Jew me down?"

The trucker also told Isaac why so many service stations were closed that night: "Because it's a Jewish holiday and Jews control the world."

At the conference, Isaac told the small audience at the U.N. Plaza Hotel that he convened the meeting because "we are two peoples who have experienced these sad things, and we can move ahead and make the world a better place."

In an interview, Isaac said his goal was to start an ongoing dialogue between the black and Jewish communities and to create an environment "where people would calm down, stop generating more recriminations and put the facts down without hiding any of the mutual complaints which exist."

Isaac, in his remarks, faulted scholars for providing the misinformation used by individuals

who make anti-Semitic accusations. He cited as example Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who has claimed that racism was spawned by the Talmud.

"I don't blame Farrakhan," said Isaac. "It is the fault of university professors who are half-baked pancakes," said the slightly eccentric Isaac, who was clad in a Yemenite head covering which is equal parts turban and hat, and traditional Ethiopian dress topped by a tallit-like scarf.

The conference was dominated by formal presentations rather than dialogue. The only moments of interaction on the specific issue appeared to be a clash between the AJCommittee's Friedman and Butts of the Abyssinian Baptist Church.

They heatedly disagreed about the future relationship between the black and Jewish communities.

Friedman called for a "cooling-off" period of "separation" between the two groups during what he described as a time of charged emotion. He alluded to recent friction between the two communities, including the recent controversies surrounding Farrakhan's perceived anti-Semitic statements.

'The Black-Jewish Alliance Is Gone'

Butts called that concept "insulting" and described the current reality as one of substantial disengagement, adding that Jews should work with African-Americans to help improve social conditions for all people.

There needs to be a "normalization" of relations between blacks and Jews, said Friedman. "The black-Jewish alliance which once existed is gone. Blacks have changed, Jews have changed, the world has changed and it's not productive to move in that direction.

"We need a degree of realism," he said, and "there must be an effort to curb the clearly bigoted behavior on both sides."

Friedman suggested a relationship like that which exists between the Jewish and Catholic communities, which work jointly on issues of mutual interest, like lobbying for congressional passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

While Jews and Catholics may differ on other issues like aid to parochial schools and abortion, they "don't clobber each other over the head," Friedman said.

Butts, who joined the conference after leading Sunday services for thousands of worshipers at his historic Harlem church, denied the existence of any "strong anti-Semitism among African-Americans."

"Some in the African-American community have raised questions about Jews, but there is no overwhelming hatred of Jews. Black folk don't have time for it," he said.

Despite the focus on black figures like Farrakhan and Leonard Jeffries, the controversial chairman of the Black Studies Department of City College of New York, "I'm more worried about Pat Buchanan," Butts said, referring to the conservative Republican politician.

"Farrakhan and Jeffries don't represent the part of the African-American community which provides the leadership," he added. "They are virtually powerless except for their rhetoric. People may go to hear them but are very discriminating about what they take out."