

**TRIAL REOPENING OF HEBRON SITE  
DRAWS DOZENS OF JEWS, FEW MUSLIMS**

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Dozens of Jewish worshipers, but only a handful of Muslims, took advantage of a brief opportunity this week to pray at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in the West Bank town of Hebron.

The Tomb was reopened Monday amid new security measures designed to separate Jewish and Muslim worshipers, but neither group appeared satisfied with the changes.

The site has remained closed since February, when a Jewish settler from nearby Kiryat Arba, Dr. Baruch Goldstein, opened fire on Muslim worshipers, killing 29 people.

Following the Cabinet's approval on Sunday, the site was reopened for a trial period of two days, during which time a maximum of 300 Jews and an equal number of Muslims were to be allowed in each day.

Officials said that barring any incidents, the Tomb will be reopened again next week, according to reports.

But turnout on the first day of the trial was low.

Many Muslims respected a boycott called by Islamic fundamentalists who oppose any Jewish presence at the site, which is considered holy by both religions.

According to the new security arrangements, Jews and Muslims will hold their prayers in separate halls. They also will access the site from different entrances.

Jews and Muslims will also have exclusive use of the Tomb during 10 religious holidays each year.

In the wake of the February killings, all weapons are banned from the site.

A specially trained unit of border guards monitor the worshipers, who have to go through metal detectors to get inside.

Closed circuit television cameras and intercoms have also been installed to enhance security at the site.

Jewish and Muslim groups alike complained that the new security measures were unfair.

"It seems that it has been altered into a fortress," Hebron mayor Mustafa Natshe said after touring the site.

One Jewish worshiper, Orit Strook, said, "They are allowed to go around in our place, and we think that is dangerous."

**NEWS ANALYSIS:****PRO-ISRAEL PACS LOOK AHEAD TO 1996  
AS THEY PONDER THIS YEAR'S DECLINE**

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- In the aftermath of one of the most turbulent elections in modern American history, pro-Israel political action committees are turning inward to try to figure out what went wrong with fund raising this campaign season.

Pro-Israel PACs suffered the sharpest decline

in contributions among single-issue or ideological PACs from January 1993 to June 1994, according to a recent study by the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan research organization that studies politics and money.

The 39 PACS identified with pro-Israel causes raised \$1.2 million through June 30, a decline of 50 percent over the same period last election cycle.

The money raised by pro-Israel PACs represents almost 18 percent of the total raised by groups defined as single issue. More than 80 percent of contributions by pro-Israel PACs went to Democrats through June 30.

Though PAC contributions picked up in the last weeks of the campaign, due to last-minute interest in many races and renewed political energy across the country, pro-Israel PACS continued to fall short of their past totals.

"The peace process has definitely hurt fund raising by Jewish organizations," according to Chuck Brooks, executive director of National PAC, the largest of the pro-Israel PACS. "The good news of increasing chances for peace in the Middle East has led to a decrease in Jewish activism."

**Large Congressional Turnover**

The financial difficulties many of the PACs faced could not come at a worse time, some say, because the high turnover in Congress puts Jewish interests at risk.

By 1996 more than half the members of Congress will have been elected in the 1990s.

National PAC suffered the largest drop-off this season. According to Brooks, the organization gave away slightly more than \$250,000 to congressional candidates and over \$70,000 to state and local candidates. NatPAC gave more than \$700,000 away during the 1992 election cycle.

Another reason for the fall-off in contributions is the "friendly administration," according to Morris Amitay, treasurer of Washington PAC, another large pro-Israel PAC.

"The Clinton administration is widely viewed as pro-Israel and with that, one of the impetuses for giving is no longer there," he said.

Although Jewish activism is off this year, Amitay added, "it's there to be tapped if there's a problem."

Despite the weak donations early in the election season, Washington PAC planned to distribute about \$170,000 this year, down from \$225,000 for the 1992 elections.

Historically, PACs raise more money in presidential election years, both Amitay and Brooks said. Still, this midterm election season produced fewer contributions than the last one in 1990.

The Joint Action Committee for Political Affairs, another large pro-Israel PAC, expected to give away less money this election cycle than last. According to JACPA's executive director, Marcia Balonick, the group will fall \$10,000 to \$15,000 shy of the \$200,000 given to candidates last cycle.

However, Balonick considers the amount

raised a large success because of significant administrative changes made at her organization during this election cycle.

Despite concern over the high turnover in Congress and fewer dollars being distributed to candidates, activists predict that Jewish interests will not suffer on Capitol Hill.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby, is among a number of groups that began a wide-reaching campaign early in the election season to educate candidates and incumbents alike on pro-Israel issues.

As a sign of support, nearly all the candidates, from both political parties across the country, have written position papers expressing support for Israel and for foreign aid, a key pro-Israel concern.

Nonetheless, pro-Israel PACs, faced with a declining donor base and complacency over a changing Middle East, say they are looking ahead to 1996 to energize voters at the grass-roots level.

#### **JORDANIAN CHILD ARRIVES IN ISRAEL FOR TRANSPLANT OF BROTHER'S MARROW** By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Less than two weeks after her father wrote an appeal for help to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a 12-year-old Jordanian girl arrived in Israel on Monday to undergo a bone-marrow transplant.

Heba Shaban, who suffers from a rare blood disorder, was accompanied on the trip from Jordan by her parents and her ten-month-old brother, from whom she will receive the marrow transplant.

In the letter to Rabin, which was written the day after the historic signing of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty on Oct. 26, the girl's father, Rushdi Shaban, requested medical treatment in Israel after the girl's Jordanian doctors said they could not help her.

The Jordanian family crossed into Israel from the Allenby Bridge, which links Jordan to the West Bank. From there they traveled to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, where she will undergo the transplant.

The head of Hadassah's bone marrow transplant center, Professor Shimon Slavin, said Heba had a good chance of surviving, noting that all recent transplant patients "are alive and well, without exception."

Israel has offered to pay \$6,600 toward the cost of the \$40,000 procedure. A Hadassah spokeswoman said it was unclear who would pay the remaining costs, but she noted that fund-raising efforts are currently underway.

#### **NETANYAHU, ANTICIPATING ELECTIONS, TRIES TO MAKE AMENDS WITH PARTY FOES** By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, trying to unify the party in anticipation of the upcoming general elections in 1996, has found that it is not so easy to mend fences.

Netanyahu publicly apologized to his Likud arch-foe, former Foreign Minister David Levy, at the Likud's central committee meeting last week. But Levy, who has boycotted all party forums

since Netanyahu beat him in the 1993 party primary, reacted coolly to the peace overture.

Their fallout surrounds remarks Netanyahu made two years ago, after he was subject to a blackmail attempt regarding an alleged adulterous affair.

He said at the time that the attempt originated from an unnamed "party higher-up surrounded by underworld figures."

Levy subsequently claimed the accusations were leveled at him.

Addressing the central committee session last week, Netanyahu said, "I have offended you, David, and your friends, and I apologize for that."

He added, "I want David to resume full activity in the party."

His remarks brought thunderous applause from members of Levy's camp, but Levy's own reaction was more reserved.

"I didn't ask for the apology and I didn't need it," he told reporters in Tel Aviv.

But Levy nonetheless left the door open for reconciliation, saying "time will tell if (Netanyahu) has learned something since saying such terrible things about colleagues in the movement."

Netanyahu has reportedly made amends with his other rival in the party, former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. Earlier this year, Sharon announced he would run for prime minister in 1996 as an independent candidate.

#### **ISRAEL BROADCASTING DELETES SCENE IN DOCUDRAMA CRITICAL OF HANNAH SENESH** By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- The Israel Broadcasting Authority has agreed to delete a controversial scene in a television docudrama that cast Hannah Senesh, one of Israel's mythic figures, in a negative light.

In the scene, Senesh, who left Israel to return to Eastern Europe during World War II to help rescue Jews, is accused of breaking down during interrogation by her Nazi captors in Hungary and turning in two of her comrades.

Members of Senesh's family and the right-wing group Women in Green petitioned the High Court of Justice for the removal of parts of the scene, which they argued would cause irreversible damage to Senesh's reputation. They also stated there was no proof that she ever broke under questioning.

The Israel Broadcasting Authority, which said the show was a fiction based on fact, countered that any change in the program would impede freedom of expression.

Senesh was captured by the Nazis 50 years ago while she was on a mission to save Budapest's Jews. She was later killed by her captors.

After viewing a segment of the video, the three-justice panel agreed with the petitioners that removing the lines would not be detrimental to the scene.

But they stopped short of directing the Broadcasting Authority to edit the scene, saying they did not have the authority to do so.

Following the ruling, the Broadcasting Authority issued a statement welcoming the High Court's position on free expression. The Authority added that it would nonetheless remove the disputed scene.

## PARISIAN SYNAGOGUE IS RANSACKED; VANDALS SCRAWL ANTI-SEMITIC GRAFFITI

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Vandals broke into the synagogue and community center in the Parisian suburb of Garges-Les-Gonesses late Saturday night, ransacking rooms, overturning furniture and breaking into the holy Ark.

While the vandals left the synagogue's Torah scrolls untouched, they scribbled graffiti on the walls in French and in "broken Arabic," according to Shlomo Guez, an official at the community center.

"We'll blow you up," read one inscription, followed by the initials FIS in French and Arabic.

FIS is the French acronym for the Islamic Salvation Front, an Islamic fundamentalist terror group opposed to the current government in Algeria.

In recent months the group has claimed responsibility for the assassinations of several non-Muslims, including one Jew, who were living or working in Algeria.

The synagogue and community center are located in a section of Garges-Les-Gonesses that is home to many Arabs from France's former North African colonies.

"This is obviously a provocation," Guez said in an interview. "The vandals weren't after money."

There are about 6,000 Jews living in Garges-Les-Gonesses out of a total population of 45,000, according to Guez. The vandalized synagogue draws approximately 500 worshippers every Shabbat.

Guez added that the synagogue has been the target of past incidents. In one case, the windows of the synagogue were smashed. On other occasions, he said, Jews going to or coming from the community center have been threatened by hooligans who threw eggs or rotten vegetables at them.

## GERMAN JEWISH LEADER CHARGES PARTY WITH HAVING SAME VIEWS AS COMMUNISTS

By Gil Sedan

BONN, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- The leader of German Jewry has said that Germany's Party of Democratic Socialism may share the anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist views of its predecessor, the Communist Party of East Germany.

In an interview published over the weekend in the Neue Osnabrucke Zeitung, Ignatz Bubis, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, urged "all democratic parties" to distance themselves from the Democratic Socialists.

Charging that the politics of the leadership of the former East Germany was stained with racism, Bubis said the successors to the Communist Party had failed until now to disengage themselves completely from the policies of their parent party.

"With the followers of (former East German President Erich) Honecker, one cannot tell whether they just adapt or whether they have been persuaded (to change their ways)," said Bubis.

As a result, he suggested, Germans should doubt whether the Democratic Socialists had really reformed their positions.

Bubis made the comments in the midst of a

public debate here over the legitimacy of the Democratic Socialists, who scored a respectable showing in Germany's parliamentary elections last month.

The party had 30 members elected to serve in the 672-member Bundestag, or lower house of Parliament.

The leadership of the party was not available for comment over the weekend, but some party members rejected the charges as "ridiculous."

They claimed that the Communists of the former East Germany reversed their negative attitudes toward Israel and Judaism as far back as 1989, when the Berlin Wall fell amid the drive for German reunification.

## TERRITORIES REOPEN WITH SLOW START AS FEWER PALESTINIANS OBTAIN PERMITS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- The reopening of the territories has gotten off to a slow start, with Israel granting only some 1,350 work permits to Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Plans for lifting the closure, imposed a day after an Oct. 19 suicide bus bombing in the heart of Tel Aviv that killed 23, had originally called for the issuance of 8,000 work permits, to be divided equally between Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Because of security concerns, the permits were to have been issued to married Palestinian men over the age of 30, with priority given to white-collar employees and construction workers who had previously been allowed to work in Israel.

Younger single men were regarded as a higher risk because it was from among this group that terror squads generally find their most willing volunteers.

But on Oct. 31, Israeli civilian authorities in Gaza granted only 1,000 permits to the Palestinian authorities for distribution to the local population, and by last week, only 900 had actually been used.

In the West Bank, Israel had distributed only some 350 permits last week.

Some Israeli officials suggested that the delays in the distribution and use of the permits were at least partly due to a disbelief among Palestinians that the lifting of the restrictions was actually being carried out.

Many workers are said to fear that the restrictions may be re-imposed at any time, and that Palestinian workers employed in Israel may find themselves detained by police for minor problems.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to lift the closure when he met with Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat at an economic summit held last week in Casablanca, Morocco.

The closure, which Israel has imposed in the past as a means for preventing terrorist assaults on Israelis, blocked some 60,000 Palestinians from working in Israel.

In the wake of the Oct. 20 closure, the Cabinet agreed to import some 15,000 foreign workers in construction and 4,000 in agriculture to replace the barred Palestinians.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:****IN CASABLANCA, JEWS LIVE PROTECTED AND IN HARMONY WITH MUSLIM NEIGHBORS**  
By David Landau

CASABLANCA, Morocco, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- As they congregate openly outside their synagogues and kosher restaurants, the Jews here clearly feel at home in this sprawling city of five million Arabs.

On Shabbat morning, hundreds of Jewish worshipers gather outside Casablanca's five or six synagogues at the conclusion of services.

Dressed fashionably, men and women, girls and boys, fill the little forecourts and spill into the narrow streets.

No sense of disquiet or apprehensiveness appears to disturb their cheerful socializing in the sun. While policemen unobtrusively stand about, security here seems more relaxed than at many synagogues and Jewish institutions in Western European countries.

Later in the evening when Shabbat ends, a crowd of customers mills around outside a downtown Casablanca restaurant, with the word "cacher" (kosher), emblazoned on its neon sign. But it is not just Jews patronizing the establishment. Many of the customers are, in fact, young, fairly well-heeled Arab residents of this sprawling Moroccan city.

Similar scenes at Casablanca's half dozen other rabbinically supervised eateries attest to the high demand for kosher cuisine. It is a remarkable phenomenon, considering there are barely 5,000 Jews left in this community, which once numbered in the tens of thousands.

The Muslim-Jewish mingling at the restaurants is only one piece of evidence to indicate that this is a Jewish community living in harmony with the broader community.

It is also a community proud of its heritage, a well-organized community that in its heyday, prior to a mass emigration in the 1950s and 1960s, was home to an ancient and firmly rooted Diaspora of more than 200,000 Jews.

**Paradise For Entrepreneurs**

Morocco, an emerging economy of vast potential, is plainly a paradise today for those entrepreneurial spirits prepared to battle the bureaucracy as Moroccan King Hassan II's still-absolutist monarchy slowly introduces the reforms that are vital to catapult the country into the 21st century.

Some of the Jews who have remained are enjoying the wave of prosperity affecting the upper crust of Moroccan society.

Albert T. drives a Volvo; his brother, who is a partner in their men's clothing-for-export factory, drives a Mercedes; their cousin prefers a Jaguar.

The bill for another brother's recent wedding, held in a downtown hotel, topped \$70,000, members of the family proudly announce.

For yet another brother, just married in Jerusalem to a woman from Brooklyn, his Israeli-style wedding must have seemed modest indeed by comparison.

But not everyone in the community subscribes to the "don't worry, be happy" atmosphere.

One young businessman, holding a French

passport, sent his wife and children to France during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, when he was suddenly conscious of chilly winds of hostility coming from his Muslim colleagues and subordinates. Well-placed Muslims, both businessmen and journalists, say the man overreacted.

They cannot conceive of a situation in which centuries of tolerance and coexistence could give way to nationalist friction -- especially with the Middle East conflict now seemingly well set on the path to a comprehensive peace.

They insist that the long history of Jewish well-being in Morocco is an integral part of the country's culture and of its national heritage.

Morocco's Jews, moreover, after centuries of strong numerical presence but generally low profile, seem in certain ways to be growing more prominent even as their numbers decline.

The king's best known and possibly most influential adviser is Andre Azoulay, a locally raised Jewish economist and intellectual who lived for years in semi-exile in France until summoned back personally by Hassan to take charge of the country's economic modernization.

On a slightly lower level, Serge Berdugo, a wealthy businessman who is the head of the Jewish community, has been serving as the government's minister of tourism, to the intense pride of the Jewish community.

**The King's Protected Minority**

Indeed, the Jews here have become the king's protected minority.

Everyone in Morocco is aware of this fact, according to a newspaper executive who identified himself only as Khalid B.

No official or policeman wants to enter into a confrontation with a Jewish citizen for fear of being accused of anti-Semitism and of the accusation finding its way to the palace, he said.

Looking ahead, the central question for Jewish life here is the effect of warming relations with Israel.

Last week, two months after Morocco and Israel agreed to begin low-level diplomatic relations, Israel opened an official interests office in Rabat, to be headed by David Dadon, a senior Israeli diplomat and former Moroccan Jew.

This first step is expected to be followed by the early establishment of a direct air link between Tel Aviv and Casablanca.

The process set in motion by last week's Casablanca economic conference, moreover, could quickly lead to the expansion of business contacts between the two countries.

Could all this herald the return of some Moroccan Jews to the country of their birth?

It would be rash to rule out such a prospect, according to observers.

Indeed, even today an Israeli visitor can easily find some of his Israeli compatriots already installed here with their families, "for a year or two -- to make a bit of money."

To Jewish New Yorkers, Londoners, Parisians or Cape Towners, that is a familiar refrain. So why not Casablanca?

Says the manager of one of the kosher restaurants, which boasts a Moroccan floorshow at midnight: "After 22 years in Eilat and a divorce, I planned a few years in the U.S. I just dropped off here, my birthplace, for a week or two. But I liked it, so I stayed."