

**COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT DENOUNCES  
MAGAZINE FOR COVER ARTICLE ON JEWS**

By Brian Harris

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- The Costa Rican government this week took the unusual step of denouncing a cover story appearing in this Central American country's leading weekly news magazine as one that "could produce anti-Semitic feelings."

The latest issue of Rumbo magazine, published by the largest newspaper company in the country, features a cover story titled "Jewish Power."

The article focuses on the political and economic clout supposedly wielded by the small Jewish community here.

The magazine cover boasts a large blue Star of David and includes the sub-headline: "They are few, they do not exceed 2,500 people, but they penetrated Costa Rica's most important circles of power."

The cover also points out that "in industry, 25 businesses have Hebrew directorship" and that four Costa Rican banks are Jewish-run.

On Wednesday, the same day the magazine hit newsstands, the Cabinet voted to condemn the magazine story as "absolutely contrary to the Costa Rican way of life."

The article "ignores history and forgets the tragic moments humanity has lived due to the creation and growth of anti-Semitic feelings," the Cabinet said in a statement read by a visibly angry Presidency Minister Elias Soley.

"We express to the directorship of Rumbo our deeply felt disapproval of this publication that could produce anti-Semitic feelings," the president said.

**'Dangerous And Prejudicial'**

Magazine director Aixa Saborio said the magazine "had no bad intentions" in running the article. She added that she did not understand the government's criticism.

The influence of the Jews "is a reality that cannot be hidden," she said. "Being so few, they are very entrenched in the political and economic life of the country."

Costa Rica's second vice president, Rebecca Grynspan, one of several prominent Jews mentioned in the article, described the report as dangerous.

"The article's content does not ponder how, in a country as ample as Costa Rica, a group can effectively come here and prosper, which is a positive aspect.

"Instead they present it as if in Costa Rica, there is a group that has more than it deserves," she said. "And that I see as being dangerous and prejudicial."

Her husband, Legislative Deputy Saul Weisleder, the most prominent spokesman for Costa Rica's Jewish community and a leader in the governing National Liberation Party, said he thought the article was mostly objective and "in some ways has a favorable tone."

But, he added, "it is very unfortunate that

the magazine has taken up this subject and especially the headline, which is what the greatest number of people read, which reminds us of black pages from the European and particularly German press from the Nazi regime."

The largest Jewish migrations to Costa Rica came in the period between the two world wars. Most of the people named in the article are second-generation Costa Ricans descended from Polish Jews.

The country's vice president and a Cabinet minister are members of the Jewish community -- as are two deputies in the Legislative Assembly, the heads of some of the larger importing and construction firms and the presidents of four private banks.

One member of the community, Luis Fishman, is considered a front-runner for the opposition Social Christian Unity Party's 1998 presidential nomination.

**JEWISH FEMINISM IN THE '90s:  
WOMEN HAVE MADE FEW INROADS  
IN TOP RANKS OF JEWISH COMMUNAL WORLD**  
[Last of a Series]

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- Twenty-two years ago, Jacqueline Levine stood up at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and decried the lack of women in the senior ranks of federation leadership.

Almost every aspect of Jewish communal life has changed since then -- except for the dearth of women helping set policy at the top levels of lay and professional leadership in Jewish organizations.

"There are so few women in pivotal roles," said Victoria Agron, assistant vice president at the United Jewish Appeal.

The "truth is that the federation system is a male-dominant culture," said Agron, who is also director of campaign planning and budgeting.

"They (the male leadership) don't want us to be too 'out there' because it means confrontation, and the federation system, which sees itself as a healing system, doesn't like that tension," she said.

According to another veteran of Jewish communal life, Naomi Levine, feminism has made little impact on the place of women in Jewish organizations.

"Women in the Jewish community have always not gotten equal pay for equal work and not moved up the ladder in proportion to their numbers," said Naomi Levine.

As national executive director of the American Jewish Congress from 1971 through '78, Levine was the first and only woman who has ever been the top professional at a major Jewish group that is not specifically a women's organization.

According to Levine, if change is to happen in Jewish organizations, women must agitate more aggressively.

"Women in the corporate world use lawsuits," she said. "Any discrimination on basis of

sex is a violation of law, but Jewish women have not gone to their state commissions against discrimination."

Jewish women don't make "enough public statements about it, don't go before boards of directors and make a big enough fuss," said Levine, who is now senior vice president for external affairs at New York University.

On the lay leadership side, a few women have chaired various major groups, in addition to the women-only organizations.

According to Shoshana Cardin, she is the only woman to have led more than one co-ed group as the top lay leader -- she has chaired five organizations, including the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the Council of Jewish Federations.

Cardin agreed that women are not challenging the organizational establishment enough: "Women have not been taught or acculturated to challenge and we're relatively new at it."

"Women are beginning to learn that the risk is sometimes worth the effort -- even if they don't succeed -- because others will succeed after them," said Cardin, who is currently chairman of the United Israel Appeal and of CLAL -- the Center for Learning and Leadership.

Women also bring a different paradigm of leadership to their activism, a model often not understood or appreciated by the male-run establishment, according to Lynn Lyss, chair of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

"Women's leadership styles are different than men. Women are more inclusive, more collaborative, less hierarchical than men, and try to involve everyone in the decision-making process," she said.

Key to the success of anyone who wants to rise to the top of a Jewish organization is visibility in the corridors of power and access to the old-boy's network that forms the leadership.

#### 'Women Have To Support Other Women'

To accomplish that, women must seek out male mentors, according to Cardin. "Few women understand that the old-boy system is based on the camaraderie of men who conduct business on the golf course and at the health club," she said.

"Women must be taken by their mentors to the right places to be seen and introduced."

Cardin also wants to see more women in positions of responsibility and leadership advocating for other women. "Women have to support other women and see to it that they're promoted. Women must ask if women are under consideration" when positions open up, she said.

It is not only at the national level that women are suffering little advancement. The local federation scene also reflects little progress over the last two decades in staff leadership, although there have been some advances in lay leadership.

The Council of Jewish Federations concluded a survey of women's progress in federations a year ago. The results were presented to the organization's executive committee at the General Assembly in Denver last month, and accepted.

The survey revealed that women have attained roughly the same levels of leadership on the lay and professional side, said Judy Adler Sheer.

Sheer is CJF's assistant executive director

with responsibility for human resources development, women's advocacy and the women's division. She prepared the report on the women's advancement survey.

The survey, in information received shortly after its completion last year, revealed that women are stuck at the low and middle levels of professional federation leadership.

About 20 percent of North America's 157 Jewish federations with paid professional leadership have female executive directors. But all but one are small and mid-size federations.

None of the largest 18 federations are run by a woman and just one of the 23 federations classified as large-intermediate has a woman at the helm.

About half of the smallest federations have female executive directors.

According to a CJF source involved in the survey last year, the few women in senior staff positions at federations earn substantially less than their male counterparts -- 67 percent to 92 percent of what men at the same level make.

On the volunteer side of the equation, the picture is slightly different. In 1994, one of the 18 large city federations had a woman president, in Washington. There are two more female presidents-elect of large federations for 1995, in Cleveland and New York.

Women preside over four of the 23 large-intermediate federations.

#### Donations Are Considered 'Men's Money'

"As with everything, the smaller the community, the higher up women are" in the hierarchy, said CJF's Sheer.

Money, of course, paves the road to volunteer advancement in the federation world. Ultimately, the size of an individual's contribution is reflected in invitations to chair committees and fill the positions that determine policy.

Much of the money donated to federations is from married couples, according to Sheer.

Yet those donations are considered "men's money" and not equally the wife's donation, unless she makes a separate gift through the women's division.

"Women own far more of the money to federation than we currently give them credit for," said Sheer. "The actual input of women into federation is being totally under-recognized."

Is the gender imbalance being addressed?

"There's cognizance and awareness, but it's much more on the minds of women than on the minds of men," said Agron of UJA.

Steps are being taken in some quarters. The Council of Jewish Federations last year created Sheer's women's advocacy portfolio.

Female federation presidents met during the recent General Assembly, as they have for the past few years. This year, for the first time, female federation executives also had their own leadership meeting.

According to Sheer, CJF may soon begin offering them seminars to build professional skills and help them advance through the ranks of top leadership.

As far as Jacqueline Levine is concerned, the value of such efforts is not yet clear.

"They are paying more lip service to the issue than they did 22 years ago," she said. "It remains to be seen whether there's any progress."

**FIRST INSTALLMENT OF NAZI RECORDS  
RELEASED BY U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES**  
By Jennifer Batog

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- The National Archives here has released to the public its first installment of the world's largest collection of Nazi war records.

The Archives' Center for Captured German and Related Documents released 4,000 of the 40,000 rolls of microfilm it received from the Berlin Document Center in Germany over the summer, said reference archivist Timothy Mulligan.

The 4,000 rolls, which are copies of documents from the Berlin center, contain SS officer and SS personnel files, Mulligan said.

The remaining documents will be released after they are copied and catalogued, he said. He noting that archivists expect to complete the project by mid-1996.

Since 1945, the files have been a critical source of information for historians, Nazi-hunters and prosecutors.

In June, the State Department gave control of the Berlin Center to the German government.

The turnover sparked concern in the Jewish community and among members of Congress about continued access to the records in Germany.

Those concerned with the transition said it has been smooth so far.

But they cautioned it was too soon to tell what effect the change would have on future access.

"The records are as accessible to researchers as they were when the State Department was running the center," Mulligan said.

"So far, we haven't had any complaints about access to records" in Germany, said Rep. Charles Schumer, (D-N.Y.), who founded and now chairs the Berlin Document Center Monitoring Group.

"But I still think we need to maintain a vigilant watch over it," he said.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center has not had any problems getting information from the Berlin Center since the changeover, said Mark Weitzman, the Wiesenthal Center's national associate director of educational outreach.

"Right now, it hasn't affected our work in any manner," he said.

"But we're concerned with what will happen down the line, in five years, when (Chancellor Helmut) Kohl's government is out and the spotlight is off," Weitzman added.

**STUDY: ARAB BOYCOTT COSTS MILLIONS  
IN LOST REVENUES FOR U.S. BUSINESSES**  
By Jennifer Batog

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- The Arab boycott of Israel has cost U.S. businesses hundreds of millions of dollars and made trade in the Middle East difficult, according to an International Trade Commission study released last month.

"In terms of diverted resources and longevity, the Arab League boycott of Israel is one of the most significant international sanctions of modern times," according to the study, "Effects of the Arab League Boycott of Israel on U.S. Businesses."

The study "underlines the critical importance of ending the Arab League boycott in its en-

tirety," U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said in a statement.

Kantor ordered the study in November 1993 to gauge the boycott's effect on U.S. businesses and to serve as ammunition if sanctions against Arab League countries become necessary, officials said.

Kantor noted that some Arab nations -- including Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf Cooperation Council countries -- have relaxed the boycott.

But Kantor said in a statement that he hoped that the study's findings, coupled with the progress in the peace process, would spur the Clinton administration to "aggressively pursue the dismantling of the remaining aspects of the boycott."

The commission asked a random sampling of 603 U.S. firms for a general assessment of the boycott's effect on their sales, costs, profits and investments.

The firms that were surveyed export goods or services and have some knowledge of the boycott or U.S. anti-boycott law.

Some 416 firms -- about 72.5 percent -- responded.

The study calculated losses to U.S. companies that either lose business in the Arab world because they export to Israel or, conversely, lose potential business in Israel because they do business in the Arab world.

The losses totaled some \$410 million.

The study also found that companies spent an additional \$160 million in 1993 to comply with U.S. anti-boycott laws, the study found.

The boycott also affects American companies' abilities to obtain and finalize business contracts in the region and compete with other countries, according to the study.

Also, U.S. companies doing business in Arab League countries have a hard time competing for business with foreign competitors who do not face anti-boycott regulations, the study said.

The 46-year-old boycott also has "a chilling effect" on Israel's business relations with other countries, costing that economy \$2 billion annually, the study said.

The boycott also reduces Israel's investment potential by 15 to 20 percent annually.

Jewish observers say although the significance of the study's results is hard to measure, they welcome the high priority senior Clinton administration officials have given to ending the boycott.

"The study keeps pressure on the issue," said Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), co-chair of the Congressional Task Force to End the Arab Boycott.

"Now the Arabs can see that the U.S. is tracking the boycott's impact," he said.

**COST OF LIVING RISES AGAIN**  
By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- Israel's cost-of-living index rose by 1.3 percent in November, the Central Bureau of Statistics has announced.

Increases of 10 percent in the cost of fruits and vegetables were the leading cause for the month's rise in the cost of living, according to the bureau, which estimated the annual inflation rate at close to 15 percent.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
AS ISRAEL AND TUNISIA FORGE TIES,  
TUNISIAN JEWS DREAM OF POSSIBILITIES**  
By Miriam Widman

TUNIS, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- Gerard Berrebi, a prominent businessman in this North African Arab nation, imagines establishing a business in the Gaza Strip, where Palestinian workers would sew clothes for sale in Israel and elsewhere.

Jewish jewelers on the Tunisian island of Jerba dream of a potentially large influx of Israeli tourists, who would join the already considerable number of travelers from France, Italy and Germany who buy the jewelers' handmade silver and gold ornaments.

The possibilities are endless for Berrebi and others in Tunisia's tiny Jewish community -- should their country establish full relations with Israel.

In the wake of last year's accord between Israel and the Palestinians, Tunisia became one of the first Arab countries to make diplomatic moves toward Israel.

Last month, Tunisia and Israel recently exchanged low-level diplomatic interest sections in Tel Aviv and Tunis, and commercial and diplomatic relations are burgeoning.

As a result of these developments, relations between Arabs and the country's 2,000 Jews here are among the best in the Arab world.

Still, Jews here, for the time being, are just imagining the business possibilities that would open up if Tunisian-Israeli relations were further expanded.

**Full Trade Ties Still A Dream**

Full trade relations with Israel are still a dream in a country where direct telephone service and direct flights to Israel are unheard of.

For Tunisian Jewry, which once numbered 100,000, contacts with Israel are important. Most Jews here have relatives in Israel or France, where the bulk of the community emigrated.

As Tunisian Jews think about the future, they also remember the strained relations that marked interactions with their non-Jewish neighbors in years past.

Tunisian Jews are quick to point out that relations with their non-Jewish neighbors are much better than in the past, but anti-Semitic comments still have not disappeared completely from the cultural landscape, they say.

The worst outbreaks of anti-Semitism appeared in the wake of the 1967 Six-Day War and the 1982 massacres by Christian militias at the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon.

In the early 1970s, the government of then-President Habib Bourguiba asked the Jewish community to remove the Magen David from its synagogue, according to leaders of the Jewish community. Authorities said it interfered with the continuity of the Avenue de la Liberte, which borders the synagogue on one side.

Jewish leaders said they would not remove the Jewish star, but said the authorities could do so if they wanted to. Since Tunisian Arabs are very superstitious about Jewish symbols, they ended up leaving the Magen David where it was.

And when Palestinian refugees were massacred at the Sabra and Shatila camps -- a ram-

page that was blamed on Israeli soldiers in Lebanon who did nothing to stop it -- Jews on the island of Jerba were the targets of anti-Semitic violence. In one case, a policeman went berserk and killed a mother and several young children.

Thousands of Jews emigrated from the country following both incidents.

Some Jews feared the consequences of the establishment of the Palestine Liberation Organization's headquarters in Tunis in 1982 after the PLO was kicked out of Lebanon.

But in the end, their fears were mostly unfounded, because many Tunisians did not like the idea of playing host to the PLO anymore than the country's Jews did, Jews here say.

Today, with the PLO headquartered in the Gaza Strip and several Arab countries moving toward peace with Israel, Tunisian Jews describe their current relations with the country's Arab majority as fair to good.

On the island of Jerba off the southern coast of Tunisia, where Jews live an observant Jewish life, some of the Jewish families even send their children to Arab schools in the afternoon to learn French and Arabic after the students complete their morning sessions at the local Jewish school.

During a recent Shabbat, several Jewish youngsters playing in the street said they had no problems with their Arab counterparts and, in fact, got along well with them.

Ironically, these good relations may go too far, worries Hai Haddad, one of the leaders of the Jerban community.

He worries about intermarriage and a weakening of Jewish traditions in Jerba. As a result, he has kept his children away from the Arab schools.

But other Jerban Jews say that mixed marriages are more a worry than a threat, since a Jew would have to abandon the religious community in order to marry an Arab.

And, as one resident put it, "things like that don't happen here."

**RABIN, IN SOUTH KOREA, WARNS  
OF NORTH KOREAN MISSILE SALES**  
By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has accused North Korea of selling medium range missiles to Syria and Iran.

Rabin, who made the accusation Thursday while on a visit to South Korea, also said North Korea was developing, with the financial backing of Iran, a long-range missile capable of hitting targets 800 miles away.

A missile with this range, Rabin pointed out, could be fired from Iran at Jerusalem.

Speaking at a joint news conference after holding talks with South Korean President Kim Young-sam, Rabin also said that North Korea is supplying Iran and Syria with technology that could be used to build missile launching systems.

Rabin told reporters that he had urged South Korea and the United States to use their influence to stop North Korea from selling arms in the Middle East.

Rabin also said that he and the South Korean leader had discussed areas of cooperation between the two countries, including economic issues and security.