



NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ Officials of Bob Dole's campaign probed charges that a potential vice presidential nominee tried to exploit a former political opponent's Jewish religion. [Page 1]

■ An Israeli soldier was killed and two others slightly wounded in a Hezbollah attack on an Israel Defense Force position in southern Lebanon. The attack followed a similar one Monday, when two Israeli soldiers were wounded. [Page 4]

■ Syria rejected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's offer to resume peace talks on a "Lebanon First" basis. The rejection came after Netanyahu said he would meet Syrian officials at any time. [Page 4]

■ Senior Italian political leaders joined Jewish leaders and at least 5,000 other people at a rally in Rome protesting last week's decision to free former SS Capt. Erich Priebke. Priebke, who has since been rearrested, said Tuesday that he would fight German moves for his extradition from Italy. [Page 4]

■ French skinheads who confessed to disinterring a body and wrecking graves in a Jewish cemetery six years ago said they had planned the incident as a tribute to Adolf Hitler, the French daily Le Monde reported. Four skinheads confessed after one of them turned himself in, saying that he wanted to relieve his conscience and make a fresh start in life.

■ Israeli officials and Jewish groups welcomed the first official public mention by the International Olympic Committee of the 11 Israeli athletes slain during the 1972 Munich Olympics. In his closing remarks at the Games, IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch also talked of the Atlanta bombing and said such acts of terrorism would not be tolerated. [Page 2]

■ Tensions between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy resurfaced over who would steer the country's peace policies. No Foreign Ministry representatives accompanied Netanyahu on his highly visible trip this week to Jordan.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Possible Dole running mate could threaten Jewish vote

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Controversy brewing about one of Bob Dole's potential running mates could stifle the Republican presidential candidate's overtures to American Jewish voters before they reach full steam.

If former South Carolina Gov. Carroll Campbell Jr. joins the ticket this weekend, charges of anti-Semitism and dirty politics are likely to follow the Republican ticket.

Campbell, Sen. Connie Mack (R-Fla.) and an unidentified candidate are on Dole's short list for the vice presidential nomination, said Dole campaign officials.

Because of his age, 73, Dole's vice presidential pick is expected to garner extraordinarily close scrutiny.

As a congressional candidate for South Carolina's 4th District, Campbell, a close adviser to Dole, commissioned a poll in 1978 that has been widely condemned for highlighting his Democratic opponent's Jewish roots.

Campbell, who has defended the poll as appropriate, has since developed strong ties to the Jewish community both as a congressman and governor.

Dole campaign officials say the Jewish vote could prove critical to winning key states in November if the race tightens.

Highlighting potential concern over Campbell's past, Dole campaign officials took an affidavit Tuesday from a key figure in the 1978 race.

Jewish Republicans privately acknowledge that Campbell's past campaign would be a temporary setback to their outreach efforts. But they point to his current relations with the state's Jewish community as proof that he is someone American Jews can support.

Others charge dirty politics.

"This is a 20-year-old story that would take one day to silence," one Republican Jewish activist charged.

But despite the time lapse, questions linger whether Campbell tried to exploit his opponent's religion in a hotly contested congressional race.

A questionable survey

At issue is a poll Campbell commissioned from pollster Arthur Finkelstein, whose name resurfaced lately when he worked for Benjamin Netanyahu's successful campaign for prime minister.

The survey asked voters to choose from six characteristics that best describe Campbell and his opponent, Greenville Mayor Max Heller, an Austrian-born Jew.

The characteristics listed were: honest, a Christian man, concern for people, a hard worker, experienced in government, Jewish.

Another question asked which personal qualities would make the respondent more or less likely to vote for which candidate. The list of 15 qualities included "a Jewish immigrant" or "a native South Carolinian."

Campbell was rumored to have shared information from the poll with a third-party candidate, who then attacked Heller because he did not "believe Jesus Christ has come yet."

Heller, who had had a commanding lead in the race, was narrowly defeated by Campbell.

Campbell denounced the remarks of the third-party candidate, Don Sprouse, at the time, according to news reports of the 1978 campaign.

In an affidavit this week, initiated by the Dole campaign, Sprouse denied reported coordination with the Campbell campaign to attack Heller.

But when the survey was released years later, Campbell reportedly defended the questions as legitimate, in part because Heller spoke during the campaign of his experiences fleeing the Nazis to come to the United States.

A spokesman for Campbell, in an interview this week, sought to clarify what happened in South Carolina 18 years ago. "This whole incident has been characterized as an attempt to inject vicious and nasty elements in the campaign," said Kenneth Vest, Campbell's spokesman.

"These questions were not designed to support anything like that," he said, adding that "the governor believes that Finkelstein was trying to find

out how Heller's story resonated with the voters of the district."

The controversial poll was not released until 1986, after Alan Baron, a Democratic analyst who is Jewish, raised the issue in a 1983 newsletter that explored the boundaries of race and ethnicity in political polling.

Baron wrote that Finkelstein, Campbell's pollster who is also Jewish, had surveyed voters to "determine the impact on voters of information that Heller was (1) a Jew; (2) a foreign-born Jew; and (3) a foreign-born Jew who did not believe in Jesus Christ as the Savior."

Baron quoted Finkelstein as saying that while the first two pieces of information would not sway the electorate, he believed that Campbell would win if voters knew that Heller did not believe in Jesus.

Campbell denounced the Baron account of the poll as "inaccurate" and "outrageously wrong," according to news reports at the time.

When asked about the legitimacy of the poll's questions, pollsters interviewed this week roundly condemned the approach.

The questions "go below the line of decency," said a Republican pollster who asked not to be named. "It will be very difficult to convince people that Campbell's campaign asked these questions and did not plan to use the results."

At the time of the campaign, Heller also charged that Campbell raised the question of whether he would have a loyalty to Israel if elected to Congress.

In a campaign speech in August of 1978, Campbell said, "I believe that it is imperative that a congressman be objective in foreign policy and have absolutely no favorite nation in the free world but America."

Heller charged that the combination of free world and favorite nation was a thinly veiled reference to Israel.

Campbell could also face renewed questions about his decision as a freshman lawmaker to speak to the notoriously anti-Semitic Liberty Lobby.

Despite this background, Campbell has strengthened his ties to the Jewish community in recent years.

As a member of Congress from 1978 to 1986, he co-sponsored legislation to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. As governor from 1987 to 1995, Campbell founded the South Carolina-Israel Exchange to strengthen trade with the Jewish state. Campbell also led a delegation to Israel in the early 1990s.

But Democrats are champing at the bit to attack a Dole-Campbell ticket. "Carroll Campbell used a patently anti-Semitic tactic to start his political career," said Steve Rabinowitz, a Democratic media consultant who has worked in the Clinton White House. "If Bob Dole can live with that, my guess is that the overwhelming number of American Jews cannot."

Campbell's spokesman said, "Carroll Campbell should be judged on his record as a governor and a congressman, and the enormous support he continues to enjoy among South Carolina voters, including a substantial number of Jewish supporters." □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Mention of Munich athletes brings triumph to Olympics

By *Melanie A. Lasoff*
Atlanta Jewish Times

ATLANTA (JTA) — "No act of terrorism has ever destroyed the Olympic movement, and none ever will," said Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, at the closing ceremony of the Centennial Olympics.

To rousing applause, he called for a moment of

silence to remember the victims of the Centennial Park bombing on July 27 and the terrorist attack that killed 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Hearing Samaranch's words was the Israeli Olympic delegation's proudest moment.

"We were excited to tears. It might be our biggest victory in this Olympics," Atsmon Paz, the Israeli team's envoy, said in a telephone interview. "We felt like, 'We've done it.' It's like we got a gold medal somehow."

Like a real gold medal, the accomplishment was a result of 24 years of struggle.

And after a two-week burst of Jewish unity, the efforts for international recognition of the Munich 11 paid off in Atlanta.

The pressure began the day before opening ceremonies, when children of the slain athletes arrived in Atlanta to meet with international media and dignitaries.

Their goal was to encourage the IOC to incorporate a moment of silence into the Games. Nothing was said at the opening ceremonies, so many of the athletes' family members walked out in disappointment.

But when a bomb exploded in Centennial Olympic Park on July 27, it presented another opportunity, said Arye Mekel, Israeli consul general to the Southeast.

"It would have been outrageous for [the IOC] not to mention Munich when they mention the Atlanta bombing," he said. The park bombing "brought the message across that not paying attention to [terrorism] is just not the right way."

Although the athletes' families had left Atlanta by last week, the consulate continued to press the case.

Mekel and his staff mobilized Jewish organizational leaders across the country to write and call Samaranch and other Olympic representatives.

In their letters, the Jews urged the officials to pay long-overdue tribute to all victims of terrorism, including the Munich 11.

Several hundred Jews faxed and called the Marriott Marquis hotel downtown, where Samaranch and other IOC members were staying, said Mekel.

Anne McCarthy, the hotel's director of marketing, said she could not confirm the number because the staff does not count faxes or calls.

Among those joining local organizational faxes were national Jewish groups, including the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, the Anti-Defamation League and Jewish federations.

Despite the efforts, Mekel said he still was shocked when Samaranch on Sunday night finally reminded the world of the fallen heroes of Munich.

"We didn't know he was actually going to do anything," Mekel said. "Then he came through and said all the right things."

Although it is a victory, the IOC's formal recognition of Munich is only a first step, said Mekel.

The Munich massacre must be remembered at every Olympics, he added. Israeli Olympic officials will meet this month to plan their strategy for the 2000 Games in Sydney, Australia. □

Canadian army kicks out 2 soldiers

By *Bill Gladstone*

OTTAWA (JTA) — Two army privates suspected of involvement with white supremacist groups were dismissed last month from the Canadian army, military sources said.

The two soldiers had engaged in "significant acts" of racism, said Maj. Gen. Bryan Stephenson.

Three other privates are under investigation and may also face disciplinary procedures, the sources said. □

NEWS ANALYSIS
New settlements likely to surge, but impact on peace is uncertain

By David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Is a major surge of new building about to begin in the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?

The answer, by all accounts, seems to be yes.

After the Israeli Cabinet's decision last week to end the previous Labor-led government's declared freeze on the settlements, mayors and council chairmen from a score of settlements dusted off ambitious housing schemes and resubmitted them to the planning authorities for approval.

Will this surge of new building necessarily derail the peace process between Israel and the Palestinian Authority? Palestinian leaders, in their initial, angry reaction to the Netanyahu government's move, grimly predicted that it would.

For one thing — as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself has repeatedly pointed out — the previous government, despite its declared construction freeze, in effect countenanced the building or completion of thousands of new homes in the settlements.

According to official statistics, during the past four years of Labor rule, some 40,000 new residents joined the approximately 100,000 Jews who were living in the settlements in 1992. And not all of them were newborns.

Moreover, the settlements — some 130 of them — proved during these past four years not to have been the "obstacle to peace" that they have long been dubbed by successive American administrations.

To the contrary, Israel and the Palestinians made their breakthrough to peace in 1993 without then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's offering to remove a single settlement or settler. And Palestinian self-rule has been implemented in the intervening period with little change in the intertwined lives of settlers and West Bank Palestinians.

Perhaps most significantly, it is now clear that the Labor government and the Palestinian Authority were advancing dramatically toward a permanent-status accord in which most of the settlers and most of the settlements would have remained in place under Israeli rule.

Considered 'Al Quds'

Coincidentally, just as the new Likud-led government was making its settlement policy clear, a detailed account surfaced about an informal agreement on the permanent status that was reached in 1995 between former Minister Yossi Beilin and Mahmoud Abbas, the No. 2 man in the Palestinian Authority also known as Abu-Mazen.

Yair Hirschfeld, a scholar close to Beilin who was involved in both the 1993 secret negotiations with the Palestinians in Oslo and the secret 1995 talks, disclosed that the informal accord included provisions for a Palestinian state in some 90 percent of the West Bank.

But it also allowed Israel to annex West Bank lands on which more than 70 percent of the settlers live.

The Beilin-Abbas draft also said Jerusalem, in its current municipal limits, would remain united under Israeli sovereignty. The Palestinians were to establish their capital in Abu Dis, a village just outside the city that is considered part of "Al Quds," the Holy City, in the Muslim tradition.

In an interview, Beilin indicated that key settler leaders with whom he consulted at the time did not reject the evolving accord out of hand. He even hinted that he had elicited similar interest from members — whom he declined to name — of the current Likud-led government.

Nonetheless, last week's Cabinet decision on the settlements was widely expected. But given the ideological commitment of the Likud and several of its coalition

partners to the concept of a Greater Israel, political observers said, the decision was relatively moderate.

While removing the restrictions on new building across the board, the Cabinet did not specifically commit the government to any new projects. And most importantly, it did not pledge to build any new West Bank settlements.

But this is not necessarily how the minister for national infrastructure, the hawkish Ariel Sharon, views the future. He has already instructed units under his authority to press ahead with new road-building work in the West Bank — and he reportedly intends to have the completed roads flanked by new Jewish buildings. These may take the form of public service areas — such as shopping malls — rather than residential settlements.

They most likely will be constructed deliberately to broaden the areas in the West Bank built up by Jews.

Meanwhile, settlement leaders were quick to put forward their local projects for approval and, no less important, for financial support. Government spokesmen, however, say much of the funding for new settlement work must come from the private sector.

Projects include those in:

- Alfei Menasheh, where Mayor Shlomo Katan has plans for 2,500 housing units in his town.
- Elkana, a smaller settlement, plans another 100 units.
- Ariel, where officials want to see development and landscaping programs that were frozen now brought to fruition with government support. Ariel Mayor Ron Nachman sent a letter this week to Finance Minister Dan Meridor, noting that Ariel had "not built a single home in the past four years" and outlined plans for increasing his town's population from 15,000 to 25,000.

- Gush Etzion, a bloc of 10 settlements near Bethlehem, has plans for a total of 3,000 new homes.

- Ma'aleh Adumim, located east of Jerusalem, wants to build 3,000 apartments and 2,000 hotel rooms.

Palestinian officials meanwhile branded the Cabinet decision a "declaration of war" against the peace process; some warned darkly of a resumption of the intifada.

Government sources suggest, however, that a relaxation of the closure of the territories — which Netanyahu pledged Monday during a visit to Jordan — will help ease political pressures in the Palestinian population by improving their economic conditions.

The closure, imposed when Hamas launched the first in a series of terror attacks in Israel in February and March, has been eased in recent weeks to allow some 30,000 Palestinians to return to their jobs in Israel.

Solemnly opposed

The sources suggested that along with the closure's easing, the Israel Defense Force's redeployment out of large areas of Hebron, now expected before the end of the month, will also contribute to a better atmosphere between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the short term.

Further down the road, however, a return to widespread and high-profile settlement construction, even if confined to within existing settlements, could well worsen the political situation. This would prove especially true if the permanent-status negotiations, discontinued since Israel's May 29 elections, fail to get under way.

In essence, the Beilin-Abbas accord that came to light last week was designed to get around the obstacle posed by the settlements, because both sides predicated their agreement on the creation of Palestinian state.

But the newly elected Netanyahu government is solemnly opposed to the creation of such a state.

Therefore, it is this issue, rather than settlement building, which is likely to form the core of future Israeli-Palestinian disagreements. □

Thousands rally in Rome to protest Priebke verdict

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — Senior Italian political leaders joined Jewish leaders, the German ambassador and at least 5,000 people at a Monday night rally in Rome to protest last week's military court verdict freeing former SS Capt. Erich Priebke.

Legal efforts continued, meanwhile, aimed at getting Priebke, 83, retried for his role in the March 1944 massacre of 335 civilians, some 75 of them Jews, at the Ardeatine Caves south of Rome.

Priebke, who in the wake of widespread protest was rearrested early Friday just eight hours after the verdict ordering him freed, remained in Rome's Regina Coeli prison, where he was interrogated for two hours Tuesday.

Among those attending the solemn rally in the historic Campidoglio — City Hall — Square were Prime Minister Romano Prodi, members of Parliament, Jewish lay and religious leaders, and family members of the Ardeatine Caves victims.

Speaker after speaker condemned the verdict freeing Priebke and declared that he must still be punished.

Rome's Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff said the judges who rendered the verdict "lived outside of the world."

"If Italy frees without punishment the Nazi Erich Priebke, known to be guilty, it would be a national shame witnessed by the entire world," Rome Mayor Francesco Rutelli told the crowd.

Said President of the Senate Nicola Mancino, "Never before, perhaps, has a verdict given in the name of the Italian people signified so wide a fracture between the justice rendered in the courtroom and public sentiment."

Many members of the crowd carried flowers that were later taken out to the Ardeatine Caves, which are today a national shrine. Some carried banners or placards reading, "Priebke? Throw Away the Keys!!!" and "Priebke Assassin."

Prodi, who did not address the crowd, greeted family members of the victims and told reporters that he was pleased to see so many young people at the rally.

The Aug. 1 verdict declared Priebke guilty of taking part in the massacre, which Hitler personally ordered in reprisal for a partisan bomb that killed 33 German soldiers. Priebke had admitted to killing two of the victims.

But the verdict said he could not be punished because of extenuating circumstances that lessened the gravity of the crime and put it under a 30-year statute of limitations.

Several complicated legal processes were under way to try to engineer a new trial for Priebke.

These included a German request for his extradition, an eventual appeal of the verdict by the prosecution and a move by prosecutors to get the verdict annulled on the grounds that the judges were biased in Priebke's favor.

Priebke's lawyer said Tuesday that his client would fight the German extradition request.

Germany has also issued an international arrest warrant for former Nazi Maj. Karl Hass, 84, who admitted during testimony at the Priebke trial that he, too, took part in the Ardeatine Caves massacre. □

the proposal, telling the Cabinet on Tuesday that Netanyahu was refusing to base the peace process on the principle of land-for-peace.

Syria's rejection came a day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Jordanian King Hussein were voicing optimism about the imminent resumption of Israeli-Syrian discussions.

The government daily Tishreen was sharply dismissive of the Netanyahu proposal.

"This talk does not mean anything for the making of peace," the Damascus-based newspaper said. "It is mere nice words which are baseless. The issue is not the resumption of negotiations, but the essence of what the negotiations would deal with."

In the wake of the Syrian rejection of Netanyahu's proposal, it remained unclear whether the two sides would return to the bargaining table anytime soon.

Talks between the two countries were suspended March 4 after Syria failed to condemn a series of Hamas suicide bombings in Israel.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said the United States was attempting to arrange a new round of negotiations, but had failed to get the two sides to agree to any resumption.

During his visit to the Jordanian capital of Amman on Monday, Netanyahu said Israel had made the proposal to Syria last Friday via American intermediaries.

There have been numerous reports that Israel was offering a "Lebanon First" arrangement, under which it would pull its troops out of southern Lebanon in exchange for the dismantling of Hezbollah units operating there.

In the absence of agreement on larger issues — particularly the long-standing Syrian demand that Israel withdraw from the Golan Heights as a precondition for achieving a full peace — Israeli officials have indicated that a Lebanon First agreement could be a good starting point for building mutual trust.

The ongoing fighting in southern Lebanon was sharply highlighted Tuesday, when an Israeli soldier was killed and two others slightly wounded in a Hezbollah attack on the same Israel Defense Force outpost in southern Lebanon that had been attacked a day earlier.

Two Israeli soldiers were wounded in Monday's attack. □

Parties to rotate ministry control

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Shas and National Religious Party have resolved their ongoing dispute over how the two Orthodox parties would share control of Israel's Religious Affairs Ministry.

After weeks of negotiations over who would go first and for how long — talks that were marked by threats from each party to withdraw from the governing coalition — Shas and the NRP agreed Monday to rotate control of the portfolio on an annual basis.

Under the arrangement, Interior Minister Eli Suissa of Shas will serve as religious affairs minister first, followed next year by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer of the NRP. Two deputy religious affairs ministers — Aryeh Gamliel of Shas and the NRP's Yigal Bibi — will serve for the government's entire four-year term.

The long and tortuous negotiations had included one compromise that was apparently suggested out of exasperation — using chance to determine who would serve first as head of the ministry. Under that arrangement, which was ultimately dismissed, a page of the Bible was to be selected at random. The initial letter of the contending parties' names that was found first on the page would indicate the winner. □

Syria rejects Israeli proposal for resuming long-stalled talks

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Damascus has flatly rejected the latest Israeli proposal for restarting Israeli-Syrian negotiations.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa dismissed