



NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ Russia reregistered the Jewish Agency for Israel, ending a six-month dispute about the agency's accreditation. The Russian Justice Ministry issued an official permit allowing the organization, the Jewish Agency in Russia, to operate there for an unlimited period of time.

■ A Jewish man connected with the Coalition for Jewish Concerns-AMCHA was reportedly the only arrest at Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam rally in New York.

■ Republican nominee Bob Dole, in the second and final presidential debate, called for a constitutional amendment to bring school prayer into America's classrooms. President Clinton said he opposes such a measure, but favors religious expression.

■ President Clinton did not rule out sending U.S. troops to Hebron to assist the Israelis and Palestinians in implementing the long-awaited redeployment from most of the West Bank town. Clinton said during the debate that he would consider sending troops, but did not think that the parties would request them.

■ Israeli-Palestinian negotiations continued in an attempt to reach a breakthrough on an agreement on Hebron. Meanwhile, in Hebron, Jewish settlers and supporters protested a Hebron redeployment. [Page 4]

■ Israeli police removed a barbed-wire fence put up by Kiryat Arba residents around a hilltop near Hebron. The residents said they were trying to keep Arabs off the lands; Palestinians said they had deeds proving ownership. [Page 4]

■ Swiss bankers demanded more time to probe fresh accusations that they deliberately stonewalled families of Holocaust victims who had deposited assets in Switzerland before they were killed by the Nazis. The move came a day after a U.S. Senate hearing in New York at which Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, head of the Senate Banking Committee, said Switzerland "blatantly benefited from the Holocaust" and used Jewish assets to compensate its own citizens.

THE RACE FOR CONGRESS [Part 2]

Jewish political money flows a bit back toward the Democrats

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Despite the current Republican hold on Congress, the majority of Jewish money is flowing the way of Democratic candidates in the '96 election campaign.

A trend early in the election cycle favored Republican candidates, with pro-Israel political action committees for the first time giving a majority of their outlays to GOP incumbents.

But the most recent statistics available from the Federal Election Commission show a turnaround, with Democrats — the traditional recipients of most Jewish dollars — now pulling in about 54 percent of all direct contributions to candidates from pro-Israel PACs.

As of Oct. 1, the PACs, some of which also consider domestic issues when distributing their funds, had contributed \$1.3 million directly to candidates of both parties.

The contributions are finding their way into several tight races across the country, as well as a handful of secure contests that involve congressional leaders with records showing solid support for Israel.

Among the leading recipients, the funds are more or less evenly distributed between Jewish and non-Jewish members of Congress.

"Basically, you look for people who are on important committees with seniority who have been very consistently supportive" of the Jewish state, said Morris Amitay, founder and treasurer of Washington PAC, which had, as of Oct. 1, distributed about \$120,000 to congressional candidates.

Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) has been the top recipient of pro-Israel PAC funding in the House with about \$25,000 in direct contributions. PAC officials cite his solid record on Israel and say they are backing him for obvious reasons.

Among House Democrats, Rep. Bob Filner (D-Calif.) has led the way with more than \$15,000 in contributions. In that race, the distribution of anti-Semitic literature identifying Filner as an "Anti-Christ Jew for Congress" prompted a flood of Jewish contributions.

The PAC contributions represent only a small part of the Jewish community's political giving.

Millions of dollars more flow from Jewish donors to candidates in the form of direct contributions from individuals; "bundled" individual contributions gathered by PACs and distributed to candidates in lump sums; and soft money — unlimited contributions individuals make to political parties that are then dispersed without restriction to benefit various campaigns.

But only PAC funds can be reliably and immediately traced. FEC records tracking pro-Israel PAC dollars thus provide the only reliable measure of how the Jewish community is apportioning its dollars in the '96 campaign.

Sharp decline in contributions

Overall campaign contributions from the pro-Israel PACs have so far fallen short of the \$2.3 million distributed prior to the 1994 election. Although the flow of contributions generally increases in the month leading up to the election, this election cycle is still expected to produce fewer pro-Israel PAC dollars than the last.

The drop is in keeping with a sharp decline in contributions in recent years that has accompanied progress toward Middle East peace.

Most Jewish fund raising traditionally revolves around "crisis situations" but an increasingly secure Israel has removed the "sense of urgency," said Chuck Brooks, executive director of National PAC.

Fund raising by the 34 pro-Israel PACs has dropped steadily from \$6.7 million in 1990 to \$4 million in 1992 and \$2.3 million in 1994.

PACs aside, political fund raising among Jewish contributors in this election cycle has not shown significant signs of decline, according to Scott Gale, president of the Fundraising Management Group, a Democratic fundraising consulting firm.

However, because there are no Senate races this year in New York or California, or races elsewhere that "capture the imagination" of the Jewish

community, there is naturally "less Jewish money in politics," Gale said.

Despite a majority of Jewish funding going toward Democrats, Republicans continue to receive donations from pro-Israel interest groups at record levels.

Their 46 percent share of the pro-Israel PAC funding represents a sharp increase from previous elections when Republicans generally received about 30 percent of the pro-Israel PAC dollars.

PAC officials say the shift in funding is simply a reflection of the political landscape.

Traditionally, interest groups give to the incumbent powerholders — in this case, to GOP lawmakers holding senior leadership positions and key committee chairmanships.

But as the election approaches, pro-Israel PACs — indeed, all PACs — have begun to spread their wealth around, with one eye on the prospect of the Democrats taking back one or both houses of Congress.

"Contributors want to make sure they give to whoever is going to win," said Sheila Krumholz, project director of the Center for Responsive Politics, a non-partisan organization that examines the role of money in politics.

'We're in the business of helping friends'

Most PAC officials reject that characterization.

"We're not really in the business of projecting winners," said Brooks of NATPAC, the largest pro-Israel PAC. "We're in the business of helping friends."

NATPAC remains the only pro-Israel PAC favoring GOP incumbents, with nearly two-thirds of its \$300,000 total in contributions going toward Republicans, according to FEC figures.

By contrast, the other 33 pro-Israel PACs have favored Democrats with about 60 percent of their contributions.

Although support for Israel reaches across party lines, when it comes to views on abortion, the separation of church and state and preserving the social benefits safety net — issues that many of the pro-Israel PACs also weigh — Democrats are generally considered more in step with the mainstream Jewish community.

This phenomenon upsets those on the other side.

"A lot of these PACs are placing their partisan biases ahead of what the real interests of Jewish community are," said Matt Brooks, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition, a Republican group.

Sounding optimistic that the Republicans will continue to control the House and the Senate in the 105th Congress, Brooks said, "It doesn't make sense to invest a majority of your funds in the minority party."

"The people that are going to effect real change and are going to make a real difference are the Republican leaders in Congress."

Another look at the disbursement of direct contributions from pro-Israel PACs in the '96 campaign shows funds going to longtime friends of the Jewish community.

In addition to Gingrich, House Republicans receiving more than \$10,000 include Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), a strong supporter of Israel who chairs the House International Relations Committee, and Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.), whom Jewish donors have sought to reward for taking a vocal stand against Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Texas), Rep. Bill Paxon (R-N.Y.) and Rep. John Edward Porter (R-Ill.) have also received about \$10,000 each.

Rep. Martin Frost (D-Texas), whose campaign has faced additional challenges due to a Supreme Court decision that redrew his district in the middle of the race,

has also been a leading recipient of pro-Israel PAC dollars, with contributions totaling nearly \$12,000.

Other incumbent Democrats with strong pro-Israel records receiving \$10,000 or more from PACs include House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.), Rep. Jane Harman (D-Calif.) and Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.).

In the Senate, contributions soar even higher, with about two-thirds of pro-Israel PAC money going to the more influential chamber.

Incumbent Sens. Carl Levin (D-Mich.), Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), Max Baucus (D-Mont.), John Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), John Warner (R-Va.) and Larry Pressler (R-S.D.) have so far totaled nearly \$500,000 in PAC money.

PACs can donate a maximum of \$5,000 to each congressional candidate for the primaries and a maximum of \$5,000 for a general election, for a total of \$10,000 per election cycle. □

France to publicly display Vichy's 'index of shame'

By Lee Yanowitch

PARIS (JTA) — France has decided to publicly display one of the ugliest relics of its wartime past: a register documenting the role that French civil servants played in the deportation of Jews during the Nazi occupation.

After a three-year probe, a commission of historians set up by former Prime Minister Edouard Balladur found in July that the register, known as the "index of shame," confirms in great detail the enthusiasm with which bureaucrats and police of the Vichy collaborationist regime aided the Nazi persecution.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe said in a statement that after consulting Jewish organizations, he had decided that the archives should be exhibited at the Centre of Contemporary Jewish Documentation.

Jean Kahn, president of the Consistoire, the body responsible for the religious needs of France's Jewish community, said the prime minister's decision "recognizes the specific and exceptional nature of the tragedy of the Shoah."

Before going on display, the archives will be put on microfilm and filed in the National Archives, where Holocaust survivors or relatives of deportees may consult them.

During the Second World War, 76,000 Jews, about a quarter of those living in France, were deported to Nazi death camps.

About 2,500 returned.

The archives were uncovered in France's Ministry of War Veterans in 1991 by Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld, who has played a major role in forcing France to come to terms with its wartime past.

"The index concerns about 70,000 Jews, most of them in the Paris region," Klarsfeld said, adding that "150,000 Jews were registered with Vichy's police."

The index contains records of the first 53 convoys that left France for concentration camps starting in 1941 as well as registers from the transit camps in Drancy, Pithiviers and Beaune la Roland, the notorious way stations for Jews on their way to Auschwitz.

Until Klarsfeld's discovery, the War Veterans Ministry had long denied that the archives were in its possession.

Last year, President Jacques Chirac became the first French leader to acknowledge Vichy's role in persecuting Jews.

His predecessor, Francois Mitterrand, had rejected demands by Jewish groups for a public apology. □

Jewish congregations to join effort to aid children in crisis

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — The sixth-graders at Temple Judea's Hebrew school in West Palm Beach, Fla., have been contributing their tzedakah money in the last year to a new local shelter for battered and abused children.

On Halloween, along with candy-filled pillowcases, the children will be carrying pledge cards and asking their neighbors to contribute money to the Homesafe shelter as well.

And Nov. 1, congregants at Temple Judea will honor the organizers of Homesafe with a special Friday night service focused on the needs of children in crisis. The temple is one of more than 1,000 synagogues and havurot participating in the 1996 Children's Sabbath, organized by the Washington-based Children's Defense Fund.

The Jewish congregations are joining tens of thousands of mosques and Catholic and Protestant churches in the event. Some 20,000 congregations across the country are holding special services on the National Observance of Children's Sabbath, which is taking place Oct. 18-20.

About 20,000 others will be marking the cause during another Sabbath, or throughout the year with special educational and worship projects, Susan Willhauck, coordinator of the Children's Sabbath program at the Children's Defense Fund, said in an interview.

The fund created the National Observance of Children's Sabbath five years ago to address the high levels of poverty and violence that affect the youngest Americans.

13 children killed a day

According to the fund, every day in America three children die from abuse or neglect, six children commit suicide and 13 children are homicide victims. Another 2,660 children are born into poverty daily, 2,833 children drop out of school, 8,493 children are reported abused or neglected, and 13,076 public school students are suspended, the fund added.

Most of the Reform movement's approximately 850 congregations will be honoring the event in some manner, as will several hundred of the Conservative movement's 765 synagogues and many of the Reconstructionist movement's congregations and havurot.

"We must address the concerns of the less fortunate, who we seem to lose in the society in which we live today, because the general feeling is that people are comfortable and unaware of those who are less fortunate," said Allan Ades, president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

According to Sheree Friedlander, educational director of the Temple Judea Hebrew school, the event provides a good way to make the children of West Palm Beach aware of others' circumstances.

"The concept of tikkun olam, or repairing the world, is part of Judaism, and tzedakah is a mandate," said Friedlander. "What better thing is there for our children than for them to reach out to others who live in situations not as wonderful as theirs?"

By having the special Sabbath service, "a very spiritual evening touches them close to their heart. And as we get into the year it will get them more involved in youth programs to do social action," she said of her congregation's plans.

That is precisely what Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, is hoping happens at all the congregations.

The Children's Sabbath is "an attempt to build a

long-term, effective grass-roots movement" of people concerned about the high level of poverty and other social and economic problems confronting American children, she said.

"I hope we have a lot more people committed to advocating for children year round," said Wright Edelman, in a conference call with reporters. "We are bringing numbers of religious people to the table so that they can do locally based work," she said. □

Hungarian Parliament backs plan for WWII compensation

By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST (JTA) — The Hungarian Parliament has overwhelmingly approved a government plan that will partially compensate Hungarian Jews for property that was confiscated during World War II.

In a 202-23 vote, the Parliament on Tuesday decided to back an earlier government decision to set up a foundation, whose assets are to be drawn from real estate and valuables confiscated by the fascists during World War II. The foundation also will oversee the disbursement of compensation vouchers worth \$27 million.

The foundation will be overseen by a special committee headed by Ronald Lauder, the treasurer of the World Jewish Congress, who has been active in Jewish renewal projects across Eastern and Central Europe.

According to the plan, Holocaust survivors, their living relatives and the Jewish community will be compensated.

Gusztav Zoltai, head of the Hungarian Jewish Community, said in an interview that a series of substantive discussions would now take place.

Hungarian officials will meet with Jewish leaders to work out by the end of November additional details of the fund as well as the return of property.

Talks between the government and local and international Jewish groups began more than three years ago.

Hungary had a prewar population of 800,000 Jews. About 600,000 died during the Holocaust. Today, the Hungarian Jewish community, the largest in Central Europe, numbers between 80,000 and 130,000. □

Britain detains 15 Israelis, all ex-Soviets, seeking asylum

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON (JTA) — Of the 15 Israelis now seeking political asylum in Britain, six had earlier been expelled from Jerusalem's Ohr Somayach yeshiva for missing too many classes.

"They were good boys, but they were very lazy," said Rabbi Eliahu Essas, director of Russian-language programs at the yeshiva.

The men, who came to Israel from the former Soviet Union, are seeking asylum because they were allegedly harassed for their right-wing views by Israeli security forces. They also claim that the security forces had placed them in administrative detention.

The men, who are between 19 and 27 years old, are thought to have arrived initially at Heathrow Airport. As of late last week, they still were in various detention centers in Britain.

After the six students were expelled from the yeshiva, it was revealed, some of them apparently formed a "commune" with the other nine men, also thought to be pupils at the school, and went into business together. The group's spiritual leader is a 29-year-old Russian immigrant active in Israel's National Religious Party. □

**Hebron settlers protest
IDF redeployment plans***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Jewish residents of the West Bank town of Hebron held a prayer gathering this week to protest what they felt was their imminent abandonment by the Israel Defense Force.

Thursday's gathering at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, which drew about 200 settlers, came as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators continued their second week of talks aimed at implementing the long-delayed redeployment.

As has happened throughout the week, optimistic comments from Israeli officials that the talks were making meaningful progress were countered by equally pessimistic appraisals from their Palestinian counterparts.

And while the negotiators grappled with proposals that included the creation of a buffer zone between Hebron's Jewish and Arab residents, a group of yeshiva students from the nearby settlement of Kiryat Arba tried to initiate their own demarcation lines with barbed wire. Israeli police Thursday took down a barbed-wire fence the yeshiva students put up around a hilltop near Hebron.

Kiryat Arba council head Zvi Katzover said the lands were owned by the municipality. Palestinians from the area said they had land deeds to prove their ownership.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Thursday with members of the Yesha Council, which represents Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to explain the government's position on the Hebron redeployment. The meeting was cut short, however, when Netanyahu rushed off to the hospital to see his son Yair, who cut his lip after taking a fall in kindergarten.

The meeting was rescheduled. □

**Analyst: Breakdown in trust
could lead to coup in Israel***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — An Israeli analyst has suggested that deteriorating relations between Israel's political and military echelons could lead to the unthinkable: Israel's first military coup.

In an interview with the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, Ze'ev Maoz, head of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv, said there has been an unprecedented breakdown of faith between the two groups, adding that it is not out of the question that a coup could take place in the event of an international crisis.

"I think the possibility of a coup is very remote, but since the assassination of [Yitzhak Rabin], I don't think anything is impossible in Israeli politics," he told Israel Radio.

"If we enter a situation of an international crisis in this atmosphere of lack of trust between the military and political echelons, there are good reasons for worry," he told Ha'aretz. "The army does not have the option of playing politics to change the situation, so the likelihood of a coup becomes a more attractive option," he added.

Maoz said the breakdown in relations had resulted from a sense among government officials that top members of the military were biased against them.

"The politicians currently in power suspect the military advisers to be biased towards the previous government, because they were appointed by the previous government, they took part in the negotiations with the Palestinians and Syrians" under that government, Maoz said. He added that those members of the current government who come from military backgrounds, such as Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, are out of the decision-making loop.

The clearest indications of friction with the military emerged after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decided last month to open a new entrance to an ancient tunnel near the Temple Mount without adequately consulting military and security officials.

The move sparked three days of violence in late September that left 15 Israelis and 61 Palestinians dead.

Maoz said the military echelon was resentful over not being consulted, adding that it was up to the political echelon "to clear the atmosphere." □

**Netanyahu, Meridor at odds
over capital market reforms***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The rift between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor deepened this week with the Cabinet's partial adoption of a Finance Ministry capital market reform package.

After a marathon session that ended in the pre-dawn hours Monday, the Cabinet decided to sidestep a politically unpopular move and reject Meridor's proposal for a tax on short-term savings. The short-term savings tax was a key component of the reform package.

Proponents of the move, including Meridor, said the tax was needed to encourage long-term savings and boost the stock and bond markets.

For opponents, the tax was a political land mine.

Netanyahu, who promised not to raise taxes during his election campaign, was against the short-term savings tax. During the Cabinet session, he would not back Meridor, who wanted the reform package adopted in full.

The reforms, drawn up by a Finance Ministry commission, included a call for a tax on savings plans of less than 10 years. It also included various tax breaks on long-term bond investments.

Proponents of the reforms said that without their full adoption, the government would be unable to stimulate Israel's capital markets.

During the Cabinet session, an agreement was reached to form a ministerial committee to review the short-term savings tax. The committee was given two weeks to complete its work. In the meantime, no steps were to be taken regarding any of the proposed reforms.

Netanyahu and Meridor have had other disagreements on major financial issues. □

**Chess champ: Peace not
a game of black and white***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Arriving in Israel this week, world chess champion Gary Kasparov offered Middle East leaders some advice for their peacemaking efforts.

Rather than always trying to win, he said, Israelis and Palestinians should recognize that a draw is a respectable outcome.

Kasparov was in Israel this week to open the finals of the Israeli chess tournament and to participate in Jerusalem 3000 celebrations.

He was also to attend the opening of the Ramat Gan chess center, an institute being formed under his tutelage to help Israeli youths hone their skills in the game.

During his stay, Kasparov played 25 simultaneous matches against some public officials and leading chess competitors, including Trade and Commerce Minister Natan Sharansky.

Sharansky was one of three opponents who beat the champion. □