

## PLO SEEKING SUPPORT IN WEST GERMANY

By David Kantor

**BONN, April 17 (JTA)** — A delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization is currently visiting Bonn in an attempt to influence public opinion in favor of an anti-Israel initiative by the European Economic Community (EEC), spearheaded by the West German government. The move would legitimize the PLO and give it a role in the Middle East peace process.

The delegation met yesterday with members of the three political parties represented in the Bundestag. It was the first such meeting ever held here and it drew a strong protest from the Vice President of the Bundestag, Anne-Marie Renger who is a prominent member of the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD).

Renger stressed that the meeting was not approved by the SPD's parliamentary faction although some members of that party along with pro-PLO members of the Free Democratic Party and the opposition Christian Democratic Party were responsible for the invitation to the PLO delegates.

### Says EEC Initiative Is Essential

According to the participants in the meeting, the PLO group focussed on the situation in the Israel-occupied territories and the fate of the Palestinians. Last night, the head of the delegation, Khaled Al-Hassan, told a selected group of reporters invited to a press conference that the EEC initiative was essential in order to achieve progress toward peace in the Middle East and avoid serious consequences for Europe.

Hassan clearly sought to drive a wedge between the West European countries and their American ally. He contended that the U.S. always profited from the Arab-Israeli conflict while Europe and Japan have been the losers. He argued that this situation made it necessary for Europe to take immediate concrete steps in support of the creation of a Palestinian state. The EEC countries, mainly West Germany and France, reportedly are seeking to alter Security Council Resolution 242 to define the Palestinians as a political entity rather than as refugees.

When a reporter asked Hassan about PLO chief Yasser Arafat's latest call for the destruction of Israel, in an interview published in the South American newspaper El Mundo, the PLO spokesman claimed the interview was a fabrication of "Zionist propaganda." However, he repeatedly evaded questions as to whether the PLO might eventually recognize Israel's right to exist.

### WEIZMAN CALLS FOR EARLY ELECTIONS

By David Landau and Yitzhak Shargil

**JERUSALEM, April 17 (JTA)** — Defense Minister Ezer Weizman shook the political establishment last night by announcing on television that he favored holding early elections. He told a panel of interviewers that early elections would help the national morale. He acknowledged that he himself would like to be Premier one day — "I would like to be able to implement the things I believe in" — but said that in view of the Israeli political party constellation his chances were not very realistic.

Weizman said he favored advancing the

elections so that "the nation of Israel may decide now which way it wants its government to go." In view of the dissatisfaction and low morale in the country, the elections should be held in about six months, he said. The minimum period under law between the dissolution of the Knesset and the holding of elections is 100 days.

The elections, Weizman continued, would help bring about a "public and ideological shake-up, and help pull the nation out of the slough of despondency in which, to an extent, it finds itself today, and to put the nation on the high road."

His answer to a question as to whether he would be prepared to serve as Defense Minister under a Labor government headed by Shimon Peres was that if he could serve the nation in the future "in one way or another," he would do so. "I will consider first and foremost what is good for the nation, and I will also consider what is good for me," Weizman acknowledged that he had indeed considered resigning in the past, but he would decide on such a watershed in his career if and when he feels he has come to a "crossroad."

### Reactions By Liberal Party Leaders

Answering another question, he said he had not coordinated in advance his statement favoring early elections either with Premier Menachem Begin or with Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich, the Liberal Party leader who is considered Weizman's strongest political ally. Ehrlich, nevertheless, reacting late last night, said he had not been surprised by Weizman's statements. "He simply spelled out the opinions we knew he held. I admire his courage," Ehrlich commented. He added that he "understood" Weizman's desire to be Premier one day.

(However, another Liberal Party leader, Leon Dulzin, who was in Paris for a two-day meeting of the presidium of the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he "deplored" Weizman's announcement. He said "it is wrong to criticize the government while the Prime Minister is engaged in difficult negotiations." He said "new elections should not be held now." Dulzin added that he thought Weizman would make "an excellent" Premier and "I hope he will lead us (the Likud) one day to victory. But now is not the time for such a change in the country's leadership.")

Asked if he feared early elections, Weizman replied: "That is not the important thing. What is important is what is good for the people." Asked if he would go to early elections on the Likud ticket, he said that would "depend on how things will work out and what path the Likud chooses for itself."

Would he join a centrist bloc? Weizman answered that at present he was a member of Herut, and if the Likud followed a different path, he would remain within it. If not — his membership was conditional....

The question regarding his possible membership in a centrist bloc was perhaps the most significant in terms of Israel's political future. Some pundits here have long predicted the evolution of such a bloc, which would include Weizman and a number of Liberals and other Likud moderates, together with segments of what are now the Democratic Movement, Shai, the Independent Liberals, and perhaps others — such as Imer Moshe Dayan, once Weizman's brother-in-law and still his good friend.

Weizman said he hoped that his statements would not cause Begin any aggravation in Washington where the Premier had just concluded two days of talks with President Carter. He said he had told Begin directly the same things on several recent occasions.

There was no immediate reaction from Begin, but Israel Radio reported that Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who accompanied Begin to Washington, did have a reaction. Burg, significantly, seemed to criticize the timing rather than the content of Weizman's call for early elections. Burg, himself, went on record earlier this month as viewing early elections as beneficial, but subsequently said he had second thoughts.

#### Stunning Shock To Likud

Weizman's announcement on early elections came as a stunning shock to the Likud, particularly to the Herut wing of which the Defense Minister is a member. The Herut-Knesset faction executive issued a statement today viewing Weizman's announcement "very gravely" and "dissociating" the faction from the minister's remarks. The faction as a whole is to be called into special session immediately after Independence Day to consider Weizman's remarks, the executive's statement said.

Faction chairman Haim Kaufman hinted that the statement was deliberately "restrained" because the members wanted to give Weizman a chance for "dialogue." If such dialogue proved impossible, though, the Defense Minister ought to "draw the conclusions and resign," Kaufman said. Weizman's support of early elections and his criticism of the government's functioning was especially inappropriate, the statement noted, at this time when the Premier is abroad on a vital national mission.

But Peres dubbed Weizman's announcement "brave and patriotic," immediately fueling the rampant speculation that he and Weizman have evolved some sort of quiet political understanding regarding future cooperation in a new government.

Labor faction deputy chairman Danny Rosolio said Weizman in effect had expressed his non-confidence in the government in which he served. The Labor faction would submit a non-confidence motion as soon as the Knesset reconvened, Rosolio said. Peres, for his part, said the required Knesset majority for the dissolution of the House and the holding of early elections seemed to be forming.

In the Democratic Movement, which has long been teetering on the brink of secession from the government, leading members predicted that Weizman's dramatic statement would heavily influence opinion when the party's central committee meets at month's end to decide whether to stay in the government or quit.

#### DULZIN: MEETING IN WASHINGTON WILL FOCUS ON PROBLEM OF SOVIET DROP-OUTS By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 17 (JTA) -- A high-level conference will be held in Washington May 16 to try and find a solution to the continued high level of emigration to America of Soviet Jews leaving the USSR with Israeli visas, Jewish Agency Executive chairman Leon Dulzin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here today.

He said that the conference will be attended by two Israeli ministers to be named by Premier Menachem Begin, Jewish Agency immigration department head Raphael Kotlowitz and himself, as

well as the representatives of a number of American Jewish organizations. The conference will probably be chaired by Max Fisher, a prominent American Jewish leader and chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency.

Dulzin, who was here for a two-day meeting of the presidium of the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry, said he hoped the forthcoming Washington parley will settle "the painful problem of the drop-outs which endanger the entire future of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union." According to figures presented to the presidium, the rate of the dropouts reached over 62 percent last month.

The presidium called on the Soviet Union to apply its own former regulations and grant exit permits on the basis of affidavits supplied by relatives abroad. According to recent reports, the USSR now grants exit permits only on the basis of affidavits provided by close relatives, such as parents to children and vice versa. The participants were told that in the first three months of this year, the number of exit visas was reduced by one-third compared with the same period last year.

The presidium decided not to become involved in the Olympic Games issue. Dulzin explained: "Jews of various nationalities will go or stay away from the Games according to their country's decision. As for Israel, the Israel Olympic Committee will have to decide." He stressed, however, that those going to Moscow will be asked to act on behalf of the Prisoners of Conscience still detained in the Soviet Union and those whose exit visas have not yet been approved. The presidium was told that some 174,000 Soviet Jews submitted affidavits for exit visas last year.

#### A GIFT OF LIFE By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 17 (JTA) -- Pvt. Stephen Griffin, 21, of Galway, Ireland, who died in a Haifa hospital yesterday of wounds he received during a skirmish in south Lebanon 10 days ago, bequeathed a gift of life to two Israelis. At the request of his parents, his kidneys were donated for transplant.

The recipients, Mariam Khatib, a 16-year-old Arab high school girl from a village in Galilee, and Mordechai Liebovitz, a 37-year-old Jewish salesman from Haifa, both suffering from kidney ailments, were rushed to Rambam Hospital where surgeons successfully performed the two transplant operations shortly after Griffin died.

The young Irish soldier was a member of the Irish contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) which clashed with Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia on April 7. Severely wounded, he was flown to Rambam Hospital and placed in an intensive care unit. He died after nine days without regaining consciousness.

It appeared, meanwhile, that Ireland may withdraw its 700-man force from UNIFIL. Foreign Minister Brian Lenihan told the parliament in Dublin that this was under consideration and the commanding officer of the unit has apparently requested it.

Relations between UNIFIL and Haddad's militia remain tense despite efforts by Israeli officers to normalize the situation. The militia has imposed what amounts to a siege of UNIFIL positions. Soldiers of the international force on leave in Israel have been unable to return to their units.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A general strike in solidarity with Arab political prisoners in Israel paralyzed West Bank towns and East Jerusalem Thursday, the second such strike in three weeks.

## BEGIN VOWS THAT JERUSALEM WILL NEVER LEAVE ISRAEL'S SOVEREIGNTY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 17 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Menachem Begin ended his four-day stay in Washington today with the vow that the Jewish people will never allow Jerusalem to leave Israel's sovereignty and a warning to the nations of the free world not to sacrifice Israel's security because of oil shortages or other difficulties they may face at present.

In an emotional address to more than 1000 people jammed into the 600-seat auditorium of the Shoreham Hotel, Begin repeated his positions on Jerusalem, Jewish settlements on the West Bank and Israel's unqualified opposition to "self-determination" for the Palestinian Arabs which, he said, "is a contradiction of the Camp David agreement." He likened actions in support of self-determination to the appeasement of Nazi demands on Czechoslovakia in 1938.

Begin spoke at a combined meeting sponsored by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Israel Bond Organization and the United Jewish Appeal. He was greeted with deafening applause and applause punctuated his hour-long speech many times. The meeting was described by some observers as the greatest pro-Israel demonstration in Washington, probably since David Ben Gurion's first visit here 32 years ago as Prime Minister of Israel.

Begin decisively ruled out participation by the inhabitants of East Jerusalem in the vote for the autonomous authority on the West Bank. "Israel is -- east, west, north and south -- under one sovereignty, the sovereignty of Israel," he declared. "Jerusalem is the heart of our people, our history, our culture, our dreams and prayers. So it will be for all generations to come, so help us God," he said. He added that "without any qualification, the world should know, all nations should know that this issue -- Jerusalem -- is D.C. -- David's Capital."

### Autonomy, Not A Palestinian State

Begin said that at Camp David "we promised autonomy but not a Palestinian state in all but name." He recalled that in 1938, Germany demanded "self-determination" for Germans in Czechoslovakia and "we know what took place." He said current calls for "self-determination" for Palestinian Arabs and the 1938 episode are "a dreadful analogy. We cannot play around with phrases." He said that at Camp David he was asked to give -- "but we refused to give our signature to 'self-determination'."

He implied criticism of the Western nations for not standing together in face of Soviet aggression. He said that because of events in Afghanistan and in Iran, some nations perceive their need for oil and for the support of the Moslem world and make demands on Israel to "give in." He said whatever their difficulties they must not make demands "at the expense of Israel." He did not name any nation.

### Will Recommend Boycott Of Olympics

Begin said the Soviet Union supports the Palestine Liberation Organization and the PLO's "genocidal methods." He said "The PLO charter is the second edition of Mein Kampf." He observed that "when liberty is endangered all free men must unite." He also said that he will recommend to the Israel Olympic Committee that Israel

boycott the Olympic Games in Moscow this summer. To go to Moscow, he said, would be "business as usual."

Shortly before the meeting opened, the White House issued a statement on Begin's talks with President Carter on autonomy which ended yesterday. It announced that Egypt, Israel and the U.S. have agreed to meet "for accelerated negotiations in both Israel and Egypt, beginning before the end of April in Herzliya." The proposal had been made by Begin for meetings during the next 40 days, alternating between Herzliya and Alexandria, in an attempt to reach an agreement on autonomy by the May 26 target date.

In a related development, U.S. officials informed reporters today that a "continuing committee" would be organized by the parties to the autonomy talks to handle certain aspects of autonomy which remained outstanding after a general agreement was reached. Such a committee is mentioned in the Camp David accords to deal with refugee problems and other matters. Its composition and scope will be among the first items of business when the American, Israeli and Egyptian negotiators convene at Herzliya later this month.

American sources indicated that the committee would have extensive authority over major aspects of autonomy except water resources. It appeared that difficulties will ensue, however, over what issues the negotiators will agree to transfer to the committee. Israeli sources here said the committee would be allowed to handle only minor matters.

Begin told Israeli reporters earlier today that it would be erroneous to regard the agreement on the continuing committee as a breakthrough and that in any event it would not function before agreement is reached on autonomy.

He indicated that the committee, for example, might discuss finding new water resources rather than the division of existing water rights. He said Israel was agreeable to the U.S. proposal that some issues affecting the daily lives of Palestinian Arabs such as water rights, Jewish settlements and land title could be taken up after an overall agreement on autonomy is reached.

### LATE NEWS BULLETIN

JERUSALEM, April 17 (JTA) -- President Carter has asked Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres to talks at the White House next Thursday, Israel television disclosed tonight. It said the talks would concentrate on the autonomy issue. The TV added that such an invitation to an opposition leader was extremely rare. It said the Carter-Peres meeting had been arranged by Ephraim Evron, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S. However, a Foreign Ministry source said the Ministry had no knowledge of the Ambassador's efforts in this matter and no proof that the meeting would take place.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Zimbabwe, which gained its independence Thursday, will take part in the 11th Maccabiah in 1981 without any restrictions. A cable to this effect was received Thursday at the Maccabiah Organizing Committee offices here. Till now, Rhodesian athletes, including Jews from Rhodesia, were prevented from taking part in international and recognized sports events because of a boycott imposed by the various sports federations. Now that Zimbabwe is independent, those restrictions have been abolished.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Alfred Moses was sworn in at the White House Thursday as advisor to the President on matters of concern to U.S. Jews.

## UIA ANNOUNCES \$100 MILLION INTERIM ALLOCATIONS FOR 1980

NEW YORK, April 17 (JTA) — Jerold Hoffberger, chairman of the United Israel Appeal, announced that the UIA Board of Directors has made an interim allocation of \$100 million toward its projects in Israel for the fiscal year which began April 1. The action, taken at the Board meeting in mid-March, is the first commitment of funds this year, launching a broad program of aid to Israel during the coming decade. The Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency recently approved a budget of \$385 million with a recommendation that it be raised to \$445 million for fiscal 1981.

Hoffberger said that major phases of this interim funding which will be administered by the Jewish Agency include: immigration and absorption, \$15,000,000; social welfare services, \$10,000,000; education, \$10,000,000; institutions of higher learning, \$20,000,000; youth care and training, \$15,000,000; absorption in agricultural settlements, \$15,000,000; immigrant housing, \$8,000,000. Only seven percent will go for general administration (\$2,000,000) and debt services (\$5,000,000).

An additional \$10,000,000 was authorized by the Board for Project Renewal, whose funds are made available from one overseas community for use in a neighborhood "twinned" to it, Hoffberger said. The overall Jewish Agency budget for Project Renewal in 1980-81 is \$80 million, including \$30 million for housing in Renewal neighborhoods.

The UIA Board, Hoffberger reported, formulated guidelines for structuring and strengthening the relationship between neighborhoods in Israel and communities in the U.S. An Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by Jane Sherman of Detroit, a newly elected member of UIA's Board, is developing criteria for allocation and monitoring procedures. A reporting system outlining legal and accounting practices will assure the contributor that full controls are being maintained.

### Allocation For Project Renewal

Hoffberger also stated that the UIA Board authorized the allocation of \$7,204,081 for Project Renewal. Forty-five programs were approved in 16 neighborhoods. Cumulative allocations to Project Renewal as of Feb. 22 amount to \$7,843,382, he said, and additional authorizations are being made at a rapid pace. UIA's Jerusalem office staff members are intricately involved in the development of Project Renewal programs, in close cooperation with the Jewish Agency, and continue to be key participants in field trips, workshops, and United Jewish Appeal mission-related activities, Hoffberger said.

According to UIA's 1979 annual report recently released to all Federations, UIA and community leadership, UIA had received \$226,279,264 during fiscal 1979 from UIA for the absorption of new immigrants, establishment of rural settlements, and for programs aiding the youth, the aged, and the needy. To maintain a steady flow of funds to the Jewish Agency for the assurance of continuity in programs and services, UIA borrowed \$60 million in 1979 from 64 banks, the largest debt financing in UIA history.

UIA plays a unique role as the recognized agency handling a grant from the U.S. government for the resettlement of refugees from the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries, in Israel, Hoffberger pointed out. He noted that since 1973, UIA has received \$178,115,000 worth

of grants authorized by the U.S. Congress, for programs providing transportation to Israel, education, vocational training and retraining, care and maintenance, employment and financial assistance. In 1979, UIA received \$25 million for this purpose. An additional \$25 million for 1980 is being made available by the U.S. Congress under a "continuing resolution."

### JEWISH HERITAGE WEEK APRIL 21-27

By Arthur Wilner

NEW YORK, April 17 (JTA) — Jewish Heritage Week, part of a series of public school programs designed to unite the various racial and ethnic groups in our city, was officially proclaimed yesterday at a reception at City Hall. The program, which was launched four years ago, will run from April 21-27. New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams, who presided over yesterday's reception and is chairman of Jewish Heritage Week, stated that the program has grown more successful with each passing year, with 750,000 students having participated in the spring of 1979.

According to Abrams, who suggested the idea of the week when he was Bronx Borough President, the function of the series of events next week is to break down the racial barriers in many schools by giving students a greater understanding of their various types of peers.

Mayor Edward Koch, who was not able to attend the reception, stated in his proclamation on Jewish Heritage Week that the period is a "unique opportunity to help foster a climate of mutual respect and understanding in our city." Noting that the theme of the celebration is "Living Together, Learning Together," Koch added: "While it is most meaningful to the Jewish student in the public school system, Jewish Heritage Week provides a unique opportunity for hundreds of thousands of non-Jewish students to gain a better understanding of the Jewish community."

The lesson plan for Jewish Heritage Week, which was distributed to teachers this week, consists of discussions on general Jewish history, a perspective on Jewish involvement in American society, the Hebrew language, Jewish culture and the arts, lessons of the Holocaust, and, finally, the major concerns of American Jews today. As further incentive for student involvement, contests are being held with prizes being given to those entries which show extraordinary talent in their chosen medium. Among those prizes offered is a trip to Israel.

Highlights of yesterday's celebration, which was attended by several hundred people, included a concert from both the Ramaz School Choir and "Talent Unlimited," a non-Jewish chorus of students from public schools across the city.

### ARAB STUDENT DISCIPLINED

JERUSALEM, April 17 (JTA) — An Arab student at the Hebrew University has been barred from the dormitory for one year and may be expelled for an alleged affront to the memory of Holocaust victims. A maintenance worker at the Mt. Scopus campus reported that Sulieman Hashem, a freshman, blew out a memorial candle on Yom Hashoah last Sunday. Hashem did not deny the accusation. He said he thought the candle was lit because of a power failure and blew it out when the power was restored. But the dormitory disciplinary committee ordered him to move out. The student faces a university disciplinary court which may expel him and possible legal action initiated by the police.