

NO ASSURANCE FROM ARAB LEAGUE GROUP THAT ARABS ARE READY TO ACCEPT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST

King Hassan Says Peace With Israel Requires Jewish State To Return To Its Pre-1967 Border
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- A high level Arab delegation ended talks with President Reagan and other Administration officials Friday without giving the Administration the clear public assurance it sought that the Arabs were ready to accept Israel's right to exist and negotiate with the Jewish State without any pre-conditions.

"This has not yet happened," a senior Administration official said after six Arab Foreign Ministers led by King Hassan of Morocco, chairman of the Arab League, met for nearly three hours with Reagan at the White House.

His remarks were confirmed by Hassan at a press conference here yesterday. "Our presence here ... shows that we also want ourselves to live in peace with Israel," Hassan said. "But conditions have to exist in order for this to happen." He listed the condition of Israel's return to the pre-1967 border.

Necessity Of Hussein-PLO Agreement

Hassan seemed to confirm a statement by a U.S. official Friday that while the Arab countries would support Jordan representing the Palestinians in the autonomy negotiations, as Reagan suggested in his September 1 peace initiative, this would first require an agreement between King Hussein and the Palestine Liberation Organization. The official, in briefing reporters, also said the Arab leaders had implied that a "dramatic" development could occur at the next meeting of the Palestine National Council in four to six weeks.

At his press conference yesterday, Hassan said a "common move" and a "common approach" by the Jordanian King and the PLO is "absolutely necessary. How far will it go? When will it start? This depends on political environment conditions."

Both Reagan and Hassan stressed that the meetings Friday were aimed at clarifying the President's peace initiative and the communique issued at the close of the Arab League summit in Fez, Morocco last month. Hassan said yesterday that there is a need to bring the two positions closer together. He noted that Reagan told the Arabs "take account of my problems, take account of my concerns and I commit myself to be along side with you and take account of your problems and your concerns."

The Arab League delegation, which included the Foreign Ministers of Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Jordan and Algeria, and Chedi Klibi, Secretary General of the Arab League, also met Friday with Secretary of State George Shultz and Vice President George Bush.

Reagan, in a departure statement on the south lawn Friday, said the White House meeting was "an important milestone along the road to a common objective, a just and lasting peace in the Middle East." But he pointed out that peace in that region "means achieving security for the Arab states, security for Israel and a sense of identity for the Palesti-

nian people." The President stressed that the "road to peace lies through a negotiating process which I hope can be resumed in the near future."

Calls For Coexistence

Hassan, who speaks English, replied in Arabic, although he spoke French at his press conference yesterday. At the White House, the King said the Arabs want "peace with justice and dignity." He said that United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the Reagan initiative and the Fez communique provide the basis for "achieving our noble aim and objective which is peace and coexistence." An Administration official said later Friday that the use of the term coexistence was "encouraging."

Although Hassan did not mention Israel by name in his public statement at the White House, he had no inhibitions in speaking about the Jewish State in his press conference. He said that the Arabs have entered "a new phase in the Arab-Israel conflict. It is no longer the conflict of force, but the conflict of law and right."

Explains Key Section Of Fez Communique

The King gave his own explanation of Paragraph 7 of the Fez communique which the U.S. sees as only implicit recognition of Israel and not the explicit recognition the U.S. has been urging. "Paragraph 7 means and shows the will of all Arab states to have war come to an end in the countries of the region and this should be done with the guarantee of all permanent members of the Security Council," he said. "But in order to replace the state of war by the state of non-war you have to establish a certain mechanism" which Hassan said would be "well defined states and well defined borders."

Hassan said this required Israel to return to its 1967 borders and then the Arabs will say "These are the borders of Israel and from then on Israel can then say 'I'm living in peace, in security'." Hassan said when this happens, some Arab states might go further and negotiate normalization agreements with Israel while others might prefer to remain in a stage of non-war with the Jewish State.

Outlines Scenario For Peace

In outlining a scenario for peace in the Middle East, Hassan said that the first thing to be conquered was the 40 years of "distrust" and replace it with confidence. He noted that after centuries of distrust between Germany and France, the two countries now work together in Europe.

However, Hassan urged that the term Camp David be dropped. "Call it camp something, what you want" after some place in the U.S. or Mideast but not Camp David, he said. The King said that negotiations would include as small a number of countries as possible, probably on the bilateral level, with the countries on Israel's borders having the priority.

He said the problems of Syria are not the same as Jordan and Jordan's are not the same as the Palestinians while his own country was 6,000 kilometers from the scene. But by these separate negotiations, all the countries of the Middle East would reach a common goal, Hassan said.

At the same time Hassan warned against having the United Nations work out a peace agree-

ment. He said if all the countries in the UN were engaged in working out the document "we might not have an agreement by the middle of the next century, provided we are still around."

Hassan stressed that he did not lead "a delegation" to Washington but a "team." He said at the Fez summit it was established for the first time a "consensus" and "unity, solidarity and a positive attitude" among all the Arab countries who were present.

PLO Rep In Other Meetings

The visit to Washington was the first of five by the Arab League committee to explain the Fez communique. The group is also scheduled to go to the capitals of the four other permanent members of the Security Council -- Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union.

At these meetings, the group will be accompanied by an official of the PLO. The U.S. made it clear that it would not accept a member of the PLO and none was present at the meetings here.

However, the Arab League said that Khalid al-Hassan, chairman of the PLO foreign relations committee, who travels on a Kuwaiti diplomatic passport, was in Washington during the meetings and was being kept informed by members of the delegation. State Department spokesman John Hughes said Friday the Department was not aware of the PLO official's presence.

STATE DEPARTMENT PLEASSED THAT ITU REJECTED MOVE TO SUSPEND ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- The State Department said it was pleased that the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) at its meeting in Nairobi, Kenya rejected a resolution to suspend Israel from its conference. An Arab-inspired resolution sought to exclude Israel from all activities of the organization "as long as Israel does not fulfill its international obligations."

The United States had threatened to walk out of the conference if Israel was suspended. Secretary of State George Shultz made it clear last week, while the resolution was pending, that the U.S. would, in addition to walking out of the conference, also withdraw its funds from the ITU. The exclusion of Israel from that UN body would be "contrary to the principles of the UN," Shultz said.

State Department spokesman John Hughes said last Friday that the U.S. was "gratified" that the ITU had dropped "the unwarranted challenge to Israel's participation in the United Nations system." The U.S., however, voted against an amended version of the resolution because it was "objectionable and unbalanced," Hughes said.

The amendment, which was adopted by a vote of 84-31 with 13 abstentions, condemned the "continuing violation by Israel of the international law and the massacres of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians." The amendment was sponsored by Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway and England.

Hughes said that since Israel's rights in the ITU are no longer in jeopardy, the U.S. will continue to participate in the conference. But he reiterated the U.S. warning that it would leave and cut off funds from any UN agency that would deny Israel the right to participate. The U.S. provides \$3.2 million, or seven percent of the ITU's current \$46 million budget.

CABINET ACTS ON EL AL

JERUSALEM, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- A Cabinet majority agreed today to initiate steps toward the voluntary liquidation of El Al -- Israel's national airline, but left open the possibility of reorganizing the government-owned carrier if its employees accept a 10-point plan drafted by management.

The Cabinet acted on the recommendations of the El Al board of directors after protracted negotiations with Histadrut and the airline workers committees broke down late last week. While Histadrut was prepared to continue the talks on the basis of the management plan, the employees refused, apparently because it calls for dismissal of about one-fifth of El Al's 5,000 employees.

Liquidation procedures would last several months and cost the government over \$300 million. A new airline could be organized under government auspices or El Al could be sold to private investors. The airline suspended service five weeks ago following a wildcat strike by flight attendants.

JIHAN SADAT HOPES HER LATE HUSBAND'S PEACE INITIATIVE WILL PREVAIL

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Mrs. Jihan Sadat, concluding a visit to the United States, said here that she hoped efforts toward a broader peace in the Middle East would continue as initiated by her late husband, President Anwar Sadat.

Speaking to some 100 persons at a reception in her honor last Thursday at the Regency Hotel sponsored by the Jerusalem Women's Seminar, Mrs. Sadat noted that before the peaceful gestures of her late husband toward Israel, "We were two nations seeking to kill each other, enemies hating each other. But now we are friends... I hope it will continue and continue with other neighbors."

Her brief remarks were well received by the Women's Seminar, a non-profit organization designed to provide an opportunity for women from the U.S., Canada, Israel and Egypt to meet and participate in an interfaith, interdisciplinary forum. Mrs. Sadat arrived in the U.S. October 11, her first visit to the U.S. after one year of mourning for the Egyptian leader who was assassinated in October, 1981. She left the U.S. last Friday after also having visited Washington.

U.S. MOVES AGAINST ALLEGED EX-NAZI

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- The Justice Department has initiated action to deport a 59-year-old alleged Nazi collaborator who was stripped of U.S. citizenship by a federal court last March for participating in the murder of a Jewish family and killing a young Jewish child in the Ukraine in 1943.

Bohdan Koz, a native of the Ukraine and now a resident of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is accused of concealing his activities on behalf of the Nazis during World War II as a policeman in the Ukraine. The Department said in papers filed in a U.S. immigration court in Miami last Thursday that "Koz's acts of persecution and murder and his concealment made his admission into the United States unlawful" and should therefore be deported. The court revoked his citizenship following a three week trial last March.

Earlier this month, a federal judge in Detroit ordered the deportation of Archbishop Valerian Trifa, head of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate in America, after Trifa acknowledged he was a leader of the Rumanian fascist Iron Guard during World War II and had lied about that association when he applied for admission to the U.S. Trifa has 60 days from the October 7 order to find a country that will accept him.

TWO JEWISH GROUPS REJECT VATICAN EXPLANATION FOR RECEIVING ARAFAT

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Two American Jewish groups have strongly rejected communications from the Vatican responding to their appeals to Pope John Paul II last month not to receive Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat. Arafat was granted a Papal audience on September 14.

Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said he received with "dismay and disappointment" a letter dated October 7 from Johannes Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Secretariate for Promoting Christian Unity in Rome.

The letter, made public by Berman late last week along with his reply, defended the audience as consistent with the Pope's efforts to promote peace and understanding and said it could not in any way be construed as an endorsement of Arafat and the PLO or as an expression of hostility toward Israel and the Jewish people.

A similar letter, dated October 9, was sent to the Simon Wiesenthal Center at Yeshiva University of Los Angeles by Msgr. Jorge Mejia, secretary to the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. It stated that the Pope strongly opposes "all forms of anti-Semitism" but reiterated his wish "to show his good will towards the Palestinian people and his participation in their protracted sufferings."

Mejia's letter was made public along with a response on October 15, by Rabbis Marvin Hier and Abraham Cooper, dean and assistance dean, respectively, of the Wiesenthal Center. They charged that "Arafat's visit to the Vatican helped convince extremists that the Jews are legitimate targets for the PLO chairman's kind of terrorism." The Wiesenthal Center officials cited specifically the terrorist attack on the main synagogue in Rome on October 9.

Reply To Berman's Letter

Cardinal Willebrand's letter was a reply to a September 13 cable from Berman to the Pope on behalf of the Presidents Conference, stating that "We are profoundly distressed at news reports that you may grant an audience to Yasir Arafat, chairman of the PLO, the slaughterer of hundreds of Israeli children, mothers and old people, including survivors of the infamous Nazi concentration camps."

The cable warned, "If you grant Arafat an interview the world will interpret it in only one way: that you regard his views as worthy of discussion, his leadership of the Palestinian Arabs legitimate, his pretensions to statesmanship valid, his terrorist acts forgiven ..."

Willebrands stated in his reply: "The Holy Father is prepared to receive all men and women who ask for it, intending in this way to manifest his concern for all people, to further the aims of peace and to promote understanding among nations ... the fact that the Holy Father receives someone in audience is in no way a sign of approval of all the ideas and actions attributed to that person ... the considerations that led to the granting of the (Arafat's) audience, and also its meaning ... cannot in any way be interpreted as hostile to Israel and the Jewish people around the world. The attitude of the Holy See toward the Jewish people and its strong opposition to all forms of anti-Semitism have in no way been changed by this audience."

Berman replied that he was "gratified" to receive the Cardinal's letter but "In fact, the embrace the Pope gave to this murderer of children was taken by the world to confer legitimacy on him and exploited by Arafat to that end. If the Pope wished to show his good will toward the Palestinian people and his participation in their protracted sufferings, it was not necessary to shake the hand of one who is responsible for the assassination of so many Palestinians and the suffering of so many more," Berman wrote.

No Comfort In The Cardinal's Letter

According to Berman, "For Jews around the world, there can be no comfort" in Cardinal Willebrands' letter. "Rather, this justification of the Pope's meeting with the killer Arafat comes as a profoundly depressing event, one that puts into question all the hopes for Christian-Jewish understanding that began so encouragingly with the works of Pope John XXIII ... There has been dialogue between Jews and Catholics because there is a mutual commitment to peace, to understanding and to good relations between them. To place the Pope's meeting with the world's leading terrorist on the same basis fills us with dismay and disappointment."

Berman added that the Pope's audience with Arafat "has caused a blow to the cause of world peace and deep distress to Jews the world over."

Mejia's letter to Hier and Cooper stated: "In the exercise of his high pastoral office, the Holy Father is ready to receive all men and women who ask for it, intending in this way to manifest his concern for all people, to further the aims of peace and to promote understanding among nations."

Rabbis Reply To Vatican Official

The rabbis, in their reply noted: "While the Pope has the right to invite anyone he wishes to the Vatican, for many Jews the fact that Pope John Paul II has never met with the duly elected Prime Minister of the democratic State of Israel -- giving, instead, a private audience to the self-appointed head of the Palestinians; a man who has brought fame to international terrorism--serves as an endorsement of Yasir Arafat at the expense of the Jewish people and the State of Israel."

Mejia's letter was accompanied by a copy of the communique issued by the Vatican Press Office on September 15, summarizing the Pope's remarks to Arafat the day before.

The communique said the Pope "expressed the hope that an equitable and lasting solution of the Middle East conflict should exclude recourse to arms and violence of all kinds, especially terrorism and reprisals; it should involve the recognition of the rights of all peoples, particularly those of the Palestinian people for a homeland of its own and of Israel for its own security." The Mejia and Willebrands letters essentially reiterated the points made in the communique.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Israeli sources confirmed unofficially Sunday night that an interim proposal is under consideration whereby Israeli and Syrian troops in Lebanon would each make a partial pullback while the PLO forces -- estimated at 6,500 men -- would leave the country altogether.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon will give his evidence to the Beirut massacre inquiry commission Monday morning. His evidence, or at least part of it, will be given in open court, with reporters from Israel and around the world attending. Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan -- presented evidence Sunday behind closed doors.

GERALD KRAFT NEW PRESIDENT OF B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

TORONTO, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- Gerald Kraft, an Indianapolis business executive, was elected president of B'nai B'rith International at the closing session last Thursday of the organization's six-day biennial convention. He defeated Murray Shusterman, a Philadelphia attorney, after a year-long campaign during which time they frequently flew together to cities and towns across the continent to debate issues of concern to B'nai B'rith members.

Kraft, who is 50 years old, is executive vice president of Melvin Simon and Associates, one of the largest shopping center development management companies in America. He succeeds Jack Spitzer of Seattle. A retired banker, Spitzer had served two two-year terms and was not eligible for reelection.

Kraft has been active in B'nai B'rith since he was a teenager. A member of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, he climbed up through local, district, and national leadership ranks. Later, as an adult, he again rose through the ranks. For the last two years, he has served as one of four senior vice presidents of B'nai B'rith.

At the same time, he was a member of the organization's Finainball (Financial) Management and Administrative Committees, chairman of the B'nai B'rith-Council of Jewish Federation Planning Committee on Hillel, liaison to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and chairman of a fund-raising cabinet division and trustee of the B'nai B'rith retirement plan.

Kraft is a past president of B'nai B'rith District 2, a region that ranges from Ohio to Wyoming, and former chairman of the organization's personnel, and planning and research committees and the membership joint cabinet.

Active In Many Communal Organizations

A native of Indianapolis, Kraft is also active in other communal organizations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Jewish Federations, a member of the Board of Overseers of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, vice president of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Indianapolis, chairman of the Indianapolis Federation's 1982 fund-raising campaign, and past president of both the Jewish Community Center Association of Indianapolis and Congregation Beth El Zedeck.

Kraft served as a member of the Indiana Governor's Youth Council and in 1960 was a delegate to the White House Conference on Children and Youth. Kraft and his wife Adele have three children, two of whom were leaders in the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. His father has been a member of B'nai B'rith for 49 years.

HAROLD RIBALOW DEAD AT 63

NEW YORK, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- A funeral service was held today for Harold Ribalow, noted writer, editor and anthologist of American Jewish fiction, who died of cancer last Friday in his home in New York City. He was 63 years old.

Ribalow, who was a former sports columnist for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was the author of some 15 books which shared in common aspects of Jewish interest but which covered a wide range of subjects. His anthologies of short stories included "This Land, These People,"

"These Your Children," "The Chosen," and "My Name Aloud." His work entitled "Mid-Century" was an anthology of Jewish life and culture, a subject also explored in "Autobiographies of American Jews" and "The Great Jewish Books."

Ribalow's book, "Arnold Wesker," was the first critical work published about the distinguished British playwright. Other books included "Fighting Heroes of Israel," which dealt with military history; "The History of Israel's Postage Stamps," and "What's Your Jewish I.Q."

In addition, Ribalow, a journalist and sports-writer earlier in his career, also wrote several books on sports, notably, "The Jew in American Sports;" "The World's Greatest Boxing Stories;" and "Daniel Mendonza, Fighter from Whitechapel." His most recent book, "The Tie That Binds," was a series of interviews with a number of contemporary writers of American-Jewish fiction.

Involved In Literature And Zionism

Born in Russia, Ribalow emigrated to America as a small child. His father, Menachem Ribalow, was an author himself and the founder and editor of *Hadar*, for many years the only Hebrew weekly in the world outside the borders of Israel. As a youngster in the New York Jewish literary world, Ribalow became deeply involved both in literature and in Zionism.

While continuing to write his numerous books, Ribalow also served as editor of the Independent Jewish Press Service, the managing editor of *Congress Weekly*, then of *New Palestine* and *American Zionist*. He was also a sports columnist for the *National Jewish Post*.

In addition, Ribalow worked for 30 years in the New York and national publicity offices of the Israel Bond Organization.

A recognized authority in the field of Anglo-Jewish American fiction, Ribalow was a judge of several book awards, including the Edward Wallant Book Award and the National Jewish Book Award. He was also a member of the Jewish Academy of Arts and Sciences.

ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS

BONN, Oct. 24 (JTA) -- The West German publication Staatsschutz has reported that many Jewish businessmen have recently received letters containing threats and anti-Semitic slurs. According to the publication, the letters were mailed mostly to Jewish personalities in Hamburg, Berlin and Munich. Jewish institutions and households in West Germany have been maintaining a low profile in an apparent attempt to avoid exposing themselves to criticism and to violence. One major Jewish institution in Frankfurt removed its sign from the front of its building. Similarly, mezuzahs were removed from the doorposts of a number of Jewish homes.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The police bomb squad Sunday dismantled an explosive device deposited near the central bus station here. A passerby called the police when he noticed a suspicious soft drink container lying near a bus stop. Police have asked the public to be especially alert for such objects, following intelligence information that terrorist attempts may be made in the Tel Aviv area.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was injured last Friday when unidentified attackers ambushed an Israel army vehicle with bazooka fire east of the Lebanese village of Doha between Beirut and Damour, the army spokesman said.