

SHAMIR AND ARENS TALKS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS AIMED AT DEEPENING CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens began three days of talks with the Reagan Administration today with what one Administration official described as a "full agenda" aimed at deepening the close relations between the two countries.

"I hope and believe that our visit will be a great contribution to the deepening and the strengthening of the friendly relations between the United States and Israel," Shamir told reporters standing in pouring rain at the White House driveway after he had a 30-minute meeting with President Reagan.

Shamir and Arens are scheduled to meet Reagan again tomorrow for a working lunch. This is Shamir's first visit to Washington as Premier and the first visit by an Israeli Premier since Menachem Begin was here in June, 1982. However, Shamir who is also Foreign Minister, and Arens, were here in July after Begin cancelled his scheduled visit.

The Israeli Premier began his day today by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Arlington National Cemetery in memory of the U.S. servicemen who were killed in Lebanon. He and Arens had lunch at Secretary of State George Shultz's home before a full afternoon of meetings at the State Department.

Before going to the White House tomorrow Shamir will have breakfast with Shultz while Arens will have breakfast with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Further State Department meetings are scheduled tomorrow afternoon and perhaps on Wednesday before Shamir addresses the National Press Club at noon. Vice President George Bush will host a dinner for the visiting Israelis tomorrow night.

Shared Interests And Common Goals Stressed

The close relations between the two countries were stressed by Shamir on his arrival here last night. "Shared interests, common goals and similar sufferings have drawn us even closer together," he said. "I want to translate this kinship into a force that will address itself to the problems of our region."

This was also stressed by a senior Administration official in briefing reporters today. "This is a meeting between good friends which comes at a time when our relations are very good and when both sides would like to see them made even better," he said.

At the same time, the official stressed, "this does not mean that we are going to overlook differences or try to sweep them under the rug. It does mean that we don't want to magnify those differences out of proportion" but "deal with them within the context of the deepening cooperation and friendship between our two states and the relationship of trust that exists between us."

One difference that is certain to come up, the official made clear, is the U.S. opposition to Israel's policy of Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Before leaving Israel, Shamir said that his government would not consider a freeze on settlement activity even if such a request was made by the U.S. as an

inducement for King Hussein of Jordan to enter peace negotiations. But the Administration official stressed today, "Settlements is not an issue that is going to be pushed under the table or brushed under the carpet."

However, he said the settlement issue would be discussed in the context of Reagan's "commitment" to his September 1, 1982 peace initiative. "This discussion will include settlements and the ways to improve the quality of Palestinian life in the occupied territory," he said. He said the U.S. believes that settlements are an "obstacle" to the peace process.

Difference Over Arms To 'Moderate' Arabs

Another difference between the two countries that will be discussed is the U.S. desire to provide arms for "moderate" Arab countries. "We will want to discuss our relations with moderate Arab countries such as Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt and why these relationships are important to the United States and indeed to the entire Western world," the Administration official said. He also noted that the Egyptian-Israeli relations would be discussed.

The situation in Lebanon and the threat of Syria will be high on the list of topics, as Shamir stressed on his arrival. The U.S. official conceded that the Syrian threat is one reason for the closer U.S.-Israeli relations.

"Syria is a problem in the area," he said. "The increase in Syrian strength and Syrian assertiveness is an important element in improving and making more effective the United States-Israeli cooperation."

Commitment To Israel's Security

The official said that the U.S. is concerned not only about Syria's refusal to talk about the terms for the removal of its forces from Lebanon but also about the increased military supplies to Syria, including SAM-5 missiles and other sophisticated hardware.

The official said this will be discussed with the Israelis in the context of the Administration's "firm commitment to Israeli security and our commitment to maintain Israel's qualitative edge and its ability to defend itself against any combination of potential adversaries."

The official said he could not say whether this would mean specific new requests for military and foreign aid. On economic aid, he said the discussion will center on "how we can help the Israeli government carry out the vigorous remedial measures that appear to be required" to strengthen the Israeli economy. But he said the Shamir visit was particularly "timely" on the aid discussion since the Administration was working on a 1985 budget.

The official also could not be specific on how strategic cooperation would be carried out and whether it would mean more than just closer coordination. But he said that such things as joint military maneuvers and pre-positioning of U.S. military supplies would be discussed.

On Lebanon, the official said the U.S. wants to cooperate with Israel in working together to achieve progress on "our common objectives" there. He said the problem of terrorism in Lebanon would also be discussed.

The official said that the Administration would probably be discussing the May 17 Israeli-Lebanese agreement both with Shamir and with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel who meets with Reagan on Thursday. Gemayel reportedly is seeking some changes in the agreement to placate the pro-Syrian groups in Lebanon. But the official reiterated the U.S. position that it is "a good agreement as it stands."

DISSENT TERRORIST GROUP SAYS IT WILL NOT TRY TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS IT HOLDS PRISONERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 28 (JTA) — Beirut radio reported today that a dissident Palestinian terrorist group did not plan to place on trial two Israeli soldiers it holds prisoner. The report, which quoted an official spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, headed by Ahmed Jabreel, followed a warning by Israel yesterday that it holds Syria directly responsible for the safety of the soldiers.

An Israeli Defense Ministry spokesman said Syrian responsibility arises from the fact that the Syrians "fully control the Jabreel faction" which has its headquarters in Damascus. The faction, an offshoot of the Palestine Liberation Organization, is one of the groups rebelling against the leadership of PLO chief Yasir Arafat.

The two men in Jabreel's hands were among eight Israeli soldiers captured by Palestinians in Lebanon 14 months ago. Six of them, held by the El Fatah wing of the PLO, were freed last week in exchange for some 4,600 Palestinians and Lebanese held prisoners by Israel. Three other Israeli soldiers remain in Syrian hands and five are still listed as missing.

Israeli Concern Mounted

Israel's concern for the two held by Jabreel mounted after reports from Damascus quoted a Jabreel spokesman as saying they may be put on trial before a military court because they "invaded an Arab country and waged war on it." The report indicated they could be sentenced to death.

But Beirut radio said today that a Jabreel spokesman said the group had no intention of trying the Israeli soldiers. They were visited by a representative of the International Red Cross this week and found to be in good health, it was reported here today.

AXE ATTACK ON WEST BANK JEWISH SETTLER SPARKS ANGER AGAINST ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) — Jewish settlers on the West Bank are furious over the axe attack on one of them, in the Nablus marketplace this morning and the escalation of stone-throwing incidents against Jewish vehicles throughout the territory.

They are venting their anger on the military for alleged failure to provide adequate protection and on government leaders who, they claim, reneged on promises to take tougher measures to prevent violence against Jews.

The victim of today's attack is Yossi Stern, a resident of Bracha, a Jewish settlement built close to Nablus. He sustained moderate wounds on his head, back and hand when he was assaulted with an axe while loading vegetables on a truck in the

Nablus marketplace at 7 a.m. local time today. Stern, who was armed, as most settlers are, fired several shots into the air as he fell to the ground. A companion, Kalman Bach from the nearby settlement of Eilon Moreh, seized an Arab who had been standing close to Stern. Security forces later detained another suspect. A curfew was clamped on the market and on the nearby Askar refugee camp. Dozens of local Arabs were hauled in for questioning as Stern received treatment at a hospital.

Demands An End To Terrorist Actions

Bach himself had been attacked on the same spot 10 months ago. His assailant has not been caught. He echoed the sentiments of Jewish settlers when he warned that the situation will continue until the army and military government take strong measures. "This sabotage and hatred cannot be dealt with in positive terms. It must be put to an end once and for all. Every terrorist caught should be deported out of the country," Bach said.

Benny Katzover, chairman of the settlers council for the Samaria region, demanded that the Nablus market be shut down until the perpetrators are found. He accused Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens of not keeping their recent promises to take tougher measures against West Bank Arabs.

"If the present situation does not change we shall not keep quiet," he said, a hint that the settlers would take the law into their own hands.

The presence of Israeli security forces has increased noticeably. Nevertheless, two Israeli bus drivers were slightly injured last night when rocks were hurled through the windshields of their vehicles. One incident occurred near Nablus and the other near Ramallah.

Army reinforcements have been deployed in the territory in recent days to deal with an anticipated upsurge of violence tomorrow, November 29, the 36th anniversary of the United Nations decision to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. Soldiers are manning look-out posts near refugee camps. Israeli buses will travel with armed police escorts and, in some areas, will be convoyed by army vehicles.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) — Education Minister Zevulun Hammer was reported tonight in stable condition after suffering a heart attack earlier in the day. The Minister, 46, head of the "Young Guard" faction in the National Religious Party, was in the intensive care department of a Tel Aviv hospital. The hospital spokesman said the attack was "moderate."

REFUSENIK GRANTED VISA AFTER 12 YEARS

NEW YORK, Nov. 28 (JTA) — Eitan Finkelstein and his family have finally been granted exit visas, 12 years after applying for them, it was reported here today. They will be leaving their home in Vilnius for Israel next month.

Finkelstein, a physicist and Jewish activist, applied to emigrate with his family in 1971 and was repeatedly denied permission to leave. Since then, he has been working on menial jobs after having been dismissed from his job as physicist. During the 12 years he also devoted his spare time to Jewish studies.

Because of his involvement in the study of Jewish history and culture and his contribution to the samizdat journal "Jews in the USSR," Finkelstein had been a target of KGB harassment, it was reported. Recently he was denounced in the Soviet press in a column entitled "Beware Zionism."

ORDEAL OVER FOR 2 IRANIAN JEWS

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Faramaz and Behrooz Sedgh, 23-year-old Jewish twin brothers from Iran, are back in the United States with the legal status of refugees after a 10-month ordeal of arrest, detention and repeated attempts by immigration authorities to deport them to a country which refused to admit them.

The young men, arrested last January 22 for entering the country on false passports -- their only means of escaping persecution in Iran -- were granted refugee status as a result of a legal battle waged on their behalf by three New York Congressmen and local Jewish and non-Jewish agencies.

The brothers had been subjected to anti-Semitic assaults by other Iranian detainees during the months they spent at the Brooklyn detention center of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). They were ordered deported last month.

Charges Of Inhumane Treatment

The refusal of the INS to release the brothers in custody of relatives living in New York led to charges of inhumane treatment by Rep. Gary Ackerman (D. NY), one of the Congressmen who intervened on their behalf. The others are Reps. Hamilton Fish and Benjamin Gilman, both Republicans.

Their treatment drew further criticism when the brothers were shuttled four times back and forth across the Atlantic in an unsuccessful attempt by the INS to deport them to Spain, the country from which they had originally entered the U.S. and which had made it clear beforehand that they would not be admitted.

A court order by federal Judge Leo Glasser late last month halted that procedure. Subsequently, an agreement was reached whereby the illegal entry charges were dropped. The brothers were flown to Vienna under an order of expulsion. They immediately filed for re-admittance to the U.S. as refugees. The government, as per agreement, waived the one-year waiting period and granted them entry permits. The young men arrived again in New York last Thursday.

WOLF FOUNDATION PRIZE WINNERS
IN MATHEMATICS ANNOUNCED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- A Chinese-American and a Hungarian are to share the \$100,000 Wolf Foundation Prize in mathematics for 1983/84, the Education Ministry and the Wolf Foundation announced today.

They are Prof. Shing Chern, of the University of California in Berkeley, California, who was born in Kashing, China in 1911 and has been an American citizen since 1961, and Prof. Paul Erdos, born in 1913, of the Mathematical Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest.

Chern was cited for his outstanding contributions to "global differential geometry, which have profoundly influenced all mathematics."

Erdos, said to be "one of the most prolific mathematicians of all times" was nominated for his "numerous contributions to number theory, combinatorics, probability, set theory, and mathematical analysis, and for personally stimulating mathematicians the world over." He lived principally in the U.S. between 1938 and 1954 and is considered a "roving ambassador of mathematics," having lectured throughout the world.

PLO-PREPARED PALESTINIAN RIGHTS
EXHIBITION OPENS AT THE UN

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- An exhibition on Palestinian rights, prepared by the Palestine Liberation Organization, opened here this afternoon in the public lobby of the General Assembly building. It was clearly overshadowed by the continuing warfare between PLO factions in Lebanon, a fact alluded to by Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Blum.

The exhibition is part of the annual observance of the National Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People tomorrow, the 36th anniversary of the UN decision of November 29, 1947 to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states.

The display is meagre and modest. It consists of only 32 photographs, 26 of them taken at the UN-sponsored conference on Palestine held in Geneva last August. It will be on view to the public until Sunday, December 4.

The exhibition was formally opened by Massad Sabar, chairman of the Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people. The opening was attended by UN officials, including the current President of the General Assembly, Jorge Illueca of Panama. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was not present though it was reported earlier that he would be. The PLO was represented by its foreign policy spokesman, Farouk Kaddumi.

Blum Cites Surrealist Character Of The UN

Blum, responding to a question by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said the exhibition "is the best evidence of the surrealist character of the UN. Everyone knows full well what has happened in recent weeks in northern Lebanon. At the UN, business is as usual. The Arabs and their supporters behave as if nothing has happened."

Kaddumi, addressing a press conference, charged that the dispute within the PLO is a mutiny instigated by Syria. He said PLO chief Yasser Arafat is in control.

The exhibit precedes the opening in the General Assembly tomorrow of a debate on the Palestinian question. Blum is one of the scheduled speakers. He will address the General Assembly, probably this Friday.

BAD NEWS FOR REGIONAL PAPERS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- The first attempt to establish a chain of regional newspapers in Israel has collapsed after seven months of mounting losses estimated in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The publishers, Eitan Communications, announced Friday that the 14 weekly newspapers, published under the collective title "Rehov Rashi" (Main Street), have been closed and some 150 employees--journalists, graphic artists, typesetters and clerical staff were dismissed.

The venture begun last April, failed for lack of advertising. David Golani, director general of the Danot Investment Group, one of the backers of the enterprise, declined to give details. Haaretz reported that the losses were in six figures. Other investors were the Bank Leumi and Delta Galil. The chain failed when the promoters were unable to raise additional capital or sell the papers to other parties.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWISH ROOTS IN CHINA

By Rochelle Saidel

(Part One Of A Three Part Series)

KAIFENG, China, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- The site of the former synagogue of the Chinese Jews here will be identified by Chinese and English markers, according to the Vice Director of Foreign Affairs of the Kaifeng municipality.

"It is not necessary to worry about this, because we consider the place a historic site. In China we take the means to protect relics," Vice Director Jang told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Accompanying the seventh American Jewish Congress tour to the People's Republic of China during this 25th anniversary year of that organization's tour program, this journalist observed that the Kaifeng synagogue site, now a hospital complex, bears no evidence of its past history. The first synagogue in China was built on this site in 1163 by Jews who had followed the silk route and settled here some time between the first and tenth centuries.

Kaifeng, in Hunan Province about 470 miles south of Beijing, was the capital of China during the Sung Dynasty (960-1126 C.E.). The city is off the beaten path for most American tourists. According to our local tour guide, Liu Wenching, only AJCongress and Jewish Teachers Association groups currently visit the synagogue site.

No One Requested A Marker

Standing in the hospital courtyard, Liu said that the Zhao emperor gave this land to immigrant Jews for their synagogue, in return for their gift of cotton fabric. He explained that the synagogue was destroyed by the flooding Yellow River in 1461 and 1642, and rebuilt after the floods. By the time another flood leveled the synagogue in the 1850's, the Jewish community was too small and poor to reconstruct it.

When asked by this correspondent why there was no marker nor memorial at the site, Liu said no one had ever made the request. Asked through what channels such a request could be made, Liu said that it was a decision of the municipality. In response to several urgent pleas to produce the mayor or his representative within the 24 hours the AJCongress group was in Kaifeng, Liu arranged a private meeting between JTA and Jang.

Reacting positively to the request, Jang said: "For Kaifeng Chinese, the site is a common place, and they know it. For Westerners, it is not a hard job to have something placed there. As more and more Jewish groups come to Kaifeng, this will draw the attention of people."

History Of The Kaifeng Jews

The municipality anticipates building a new museum, Jang added. He said there had already been discussion on whether to house there or at the synagogue site three steles (stone tablets) which record the history of the Kaifeng Jews and their synagogue. The steles, written in Chinese in 1489, 1512, and 1679, are currently housed in the warehouse of the old municipal museum. A fourth stele, written in 1663, is missing.

In 1912, Bishop William Charles White, head of the Canadian Church of England in Hunan Province, acquired the steles. (Pearl Buck's 1948 "Peony" gives a fictionalized account of the event, as well as a fictionalized history of the demise of the Kaifeng Jewish community.) White agreed to stipula-

tions by descendants of the Jewish community that he not remove the steles from the province, and he placed them on the grounds of Trinity Cathedral in Kaifeng.

Today the 1489 and 1512 steles are bound back to back and lie in a covered courtyard of the museum warehouse. The legend is visible only on the former. According to Liu, it describes the construction of the first synagogue (using the Chinese characters for the word "mosque").

This stele says that the Jewish community came from Xiu, which Liu identified as the general region of India, Persia and Turkey. It describes the emperor's acceptance of the Jews as naturalized citizens, who can abide by their own ancient customs and reside in Kaifeng. In 1163, Levi Wusida led the community and Andula built the first synagogue with money donated by Kaifeng clans, the stele says (according to Liu's translation).

The second stele speaks of the "scripture-worshipping synagogue," Liu said. The third mentions a "temple history-telling inscription." The 32 members of the AJCongress tour had the opportunity to see these three steles, which were formerly not open to the public. By special arrangements with the municipal museum, Liu and other local government guides can now take AJCongress groups to the warehouse. (The taking of photographs was strictly prohibited.)

Only Evidence Of A Once Jewish Community

Along with the torahs and other relics now in the Royal Museum in Toronto, the three steles are the only public physical evidence that a Jewish community once flourished here. Although descendants of this community can still be found here, they no longer publicly admit more than their lineage. Their interaction with Western Jews is limited, and monitored by an atheist government. If they are more than relics themselves, their practice of Judaism is a well-guarded secret.

Liu was knowledgeable about the history of the Kaifeng Jews, and gave the following reasons for their disappearance as a community: intermarriage, isolation from other Jews, lack of discrimination against them, and the floods. Scholars do not agree on a specific year for the arrival of Jews here, nor for the demise of the community. In the 13th century, Marco Polo spoke of the Jews of Kaifeng. But their presence was generally doubted until 1605.

Ironically, it was a Christian missionary, Father Matteo Ricci, who that year discovered and publicized their existence. According to his account, the community then numbered more than one thousand. Ricci and later missionaries wanted to convert the Kaifeng Jews, and hoped to find in the Chinese torah Christological passages they believed were "missing" from western torahs. They did not succeed in either mission.

(Tomorrow: Part Two)

PARIS (JTA) -- Premier Pierre Mauroy Sunday night pledged that his government will fight with the utmost energy the slightest manifestation of racism or anti-Semitism. Mauroy, who was inaugurating a new Jewish communal center in the city of Lille, said "Western Europe and France have learned the lesson of the past. We must all act at the first symptom of anti-Semitism as slight as it may be." The community center, built with the help of the government and the city of Lille, will serve the needs of Lille's 3,000 Jews and another 25,000 who live close to the city.