

HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT SEEKING TO REACH AN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA) — King Hussein of Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat held a second day of talks in Amman today in an apparent effort to reach an agreement for cooperation in the Middle East peace process.

The latest talks, a resumption of their dialogue that was broken off last April, seem to have created sharp divisions among Palestinians on the West Bank. Some supporters of Arafat are said to be encouraging him to seek an arrangement whereby Hussein could speak for the Palestinians in peace talks with Israel. Opponents view the Hussein-Arafat meetings with suspicion.

West Bank Delegation Goes To Amman

A delegation of prominent West Bank leaders went to Amman over the weekend to lend moral support to the talks. They reportedly brought a document signed by West Bankers urging Arafat to agree to a joint course of action with Hussein.

One of them, Mayor Elias Friej of Bethlehem, a Palestinian moderate, said in Amman today that he hoped to see Hussein. He evaded questions from reporters as to whether he would see Arafat. The Israeli authorities, in allowing the West Bankers to go to Amman, imposed a strict ban on any contact with the PLO leader.

The deposed Mayor of Gaza, Rashad A-Shawa, was denied permission by the Defense Ministry to go to Jordan. The Israelis claim A-Shawa is a PLO sympathizer. He has spoken recently of the need for Palestinians to enter a political dialogue with Israel.

Contact With Arafat Prohibited

Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, coordinator of government affairs for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said today that none of the Palestinians who left for Amman would be allowed to see Arafat.

Ben-Eliezer said he hoped residents of the territories would realize that Israel can be their only negotiating partner in peace talks. He claimed that most West Bankers were pessimistic over the outcome of the Hussein-Arafat meetings. Arafat supporters insisted that they were confident of a positive outcome.

Friej said on an Israel television interview before leaving that Arafat must enter the political process. "I would urge Arafat to join the Mideast peace process because there can never be a military solution to the Palestinian problem," he said.

Might Initiate A New Peace Plan

According to unconfirmed reports, Jordan and the PLO would initiate a new peace plan if and when they receive wider Arab support. Arafat arrived in Amman yesterday. It was his first trip there since his ouster from Lebanon by Syrian-backed PLO dissidents last December. In addition to his talks with Hussein, he conferred with Jordan's Prime Minister Ahmed Obeidat.

The failure of the Hussein-Arafat talks last April was attributed to pressure by Syria and Libyan-backed Palestinian rebels and greatly disappointed the Reagan Administration which had hoped for a breakthrough that would lead to resumption of the stalled autonomy talks.

IDF, UNIFIL IN NEW QUARREL
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 26 (JTA) — The Israel Defense Force is involved in a new quarrel with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). It flatly rejected a complaint by UNIFIL and by the International Red Cross that their representatives were barred from entering the Shiite village of Marakha in south Lebanon last week after an IDF search for alleged terrorists in the village which lies six miles east of Tyre.

According to UNIFIL, its officers attempted to enter the village after hearing gunfire and explosions there and saw IDF helicopters bringing re-enforcements. But they were blocked by Israeli troops. A French UNIFIL officer reportedly tried to infiltrate an IDF cordon but was discovered and turned back. The village is in an area patrolled by Senegalese units of the UN force.

An IDF spokesman said UNIFIL and Red Cross ambulances came to the village four hours after the operation was completed. He said the villagers had demonstrated and some were wounded when shots were fired. But the wounded were evacuated long before the ambulances arrived, the IDF spokesman said. UNIFIL charged that it was prevented from sending ambulances into the village after the villagers called for them to take the wounded to hospitals.

The deputy commander of UNIFIL was permitted to enter the village on the following morning and received a full explanation of the Israeli operation, the IDF said. Army sources said the IDF would continue to carry out searches and arrests of suspected terrorists.

1,000 KIBBUTZNIKS, ARMY RESERVISTS URGE WITHDRAWAL OF IDF FROM LEBANON
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA) — Nearly 1,000 kibbutz members from the Beit Shean area were joined by about 35 army reservists in a demonstration outside the Prime Minister's Office yesterday urging that the Israel Defense Force be withdrawn from Lebanon. The Cabinet was meeting at the time.

The soldiers, paratroopers who have been in the same unit since 1965, described their protest as "apolitical." Their aim, they said, was to persuade the government to adopt a policy that "makes some sense." They said they had organized spontaneously on the last night of their reserve duty in Lebanon.

According to the soldiers, the IDF's continued presence in Lebanon was harmful both to training and morale. "We spend our nights chasing elusive figures, afraid of Shiites armed with the guns which Arik (former Defense Minister Ariel) Sharon had given them," one reservist said.

EEC SUPPORTS UN FORCE IN BEIRUT

PARIS, Feb. 27 (JTA) — The European Economic Community gave its strong backing today to a French

plan to create a United Nations peacekeeping force in Beirut to replace the multinational force, most of which has been withdrawn.

The foreign ministers of the 10 EEC member-states, at a one-day meeting here, urged the United Nations Security Council to act immediately to set up such a force. They also called on the various warring factions in Lebanon to observe a cease-fire and to meet again in Geneva to work out their differences and establish a central Lebanese government that could guarantee the country's independence and territorial integrity.

France, which is sponsoring a resolution in the Security Council for a UN force in Beirut, is the only member of the multinational force that still has troops in the Lebanese capital.

The British pulled their small contingent out earlier this month, the Italians did likewise a week ago and most of the 1,600 U.S. marines completed their transfer yesterday to ships of the Sixth Fleet off-shore. A small marine detachment remains in Beirut to guard the U.S. Embassy.

Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir said at his meetings with EEC officials in Brussels last week that Israel does not oppose a UN force in Beirut. He made clear, however, that Israel prefers to take care of its own security needs in south Lebanon and suggested that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) be transferred from the south to Beirut to act as a buffer between rival Moslem and Christian militias.

SOVIET JEW ENDS HUNGER STRIKE

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- Leningrad activist Nadezhda Fradkova has ended her two-month hunger strike, it was reported today by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Fradkova, 36, had been force-fed in a Leningrad hospital since she began her strike on December 26.

According to the Conference, she first applied for an exit visa in 1978 but was refused because Soviet authorities claimed that her father was engaged in security work as the deputy director of the Leningrad construction bureau. The Conference noted, however, that Fradkova's parents had divorced when she was six months old and that she has never had close contact with her father.

Fradkova graduated in 1968 from Leningrad University with a degree in mathematical linguistics. After she was first refused an exit visa in 1978 she reapplied again at various times but was refused each time. She protested by staging hunger strikes.

JACKSON ADMITS MAKING ETHNIC SLUR

MANCHESTER, N.H., Feb. 27 (JTA) -- The Rev. Jesse Jackson apologized to a Jewish audience here last night that he had indeed made insulting references to Jews last month but insisted that neither he nor his remarks could be "remotely construed as being anti-Semitic or anti-Israel."

Jackson, who is seeking the Democratic Party's Presidential nomination, spoke to an overflow crowd at Temple Adath Yeshurun on the eve of the New Hampshire primaries. He said he had used the word "Hymies" to refer to Jews and "Hymietown" as a description of New York City in what he said was a private conversation with a Washington Post reporter at the National Airport near Washington, D.C. on January 25.

The slur was reported last week in the Post and in the general media nationally, but Jackson had maintained up to now that he had "no recollection" of having said those words. He made his

latest denial during a nationally televised debate with seven other Democratic Presidential aspirants here last Thursday night when the question was put to him by moderator Barbara Walters.

Says It Was 'Insensitive And Wrong'

Jackson said last night, "However innocent and unintended, it was insensitive and wrong" for him to have made a derogatory ethnic reference. He said that "off-color" remarks have no place in a political campaign. But many of the 200-plus people who crowded into the small synagogue appeared dubious of Jackson's candor inasmuch as he waited more than a month to admit to the offensive remark and finally did so less than 48 hours before the nation's first Presidential primary.

Jackson, an ordained Baptist minister, explained that "When confronted by the charge, I hesitated," to prevent a disruption of his campaign. He compared his struggle over whether to admit or deny the charge to Jacob's wrestling with an angel.

"It's human to err, divine to forgive," Jackson told his audience. "I appeal to you tonight as a Jewish community to find yourself in the rainbow coalition," he said referring to his coalition of supporters both Black and white. "I categorically deny that I am either anti-Semitic or anti-Israel," Jackson said.

Black Muslim Warns Jews

Meanwhile, Jackson refused yesterday to dissociate himself from the remarks made by Louis Farrakhan, described as the minister of the Nation of Islam, who introduced Jackson last Saturday night at a rally of 10,000 persons at the annual Savior's Day event in Chicago.

Farrakhan told the rally that there have been more than 100 threats against Jackson's life. "I say to the Jewish people who may not like our brother, when you attack him you are attacking the millions who are lining up with him. You are attacking all of us... If you harm this brother, I warn you in the name of Allah, this will be the last one you do harm," news reports quoted Farrakhan as saying.

Questioned by reporters before an appearance yesterday at New Hampshire College to address a forum on hunger, Jackson was asked for his reaction to Farrakhan's remarks. He was quoted as saying, "Ask Farrakhan about his own introduction."

In a television interview today, Jackson indicated that he did not anticipate his tensions with the Jewish community will affect the outcome of tomorrow's New Hampshire primary election. "It has not become a big New Hampshire issue," Jackson said. "My national constituency has not been affected at all in the political sense."

DOCUMENTARY ON CONCENTRATION CAMPS AS SEEN WHEN THEY WERE LIBERATED BY ALLIED FORCES REPORTEDLY WAS ABANDONED BY U.S., BRITISH AUTHORITIES

By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- A documentary film showing the most notorious Nazi concentration camps as they appeared when they were liberated by Allied forces in 1945, went unfinished and was abandoned by U.S. and British authorities, apparently for political reasons immediately after the war, a British film researcher says.

The incomplete documentary was screened for the first time at the International Film Festival in West Berlin today under the title "The Memory of the Camps." It aroused particular interest because the late Alfred Hitchcock is credited as one of its directors.

Information about the making of the documentary and its abandonment was provided by its co-editor, Peter Tanner and others interviewed by Kay Gladstone, film researcher at the Imperial War Museum in London who attended the screening. Gladstone said that the original intention, in the spring of 1945, was to produce an hour-long documentary of the atrocities committed at the camps, then freshly discovered, to show to the German civilian population.

But by the autumn of the same year, according to Germans who recall the situation, the Allies decided it was no longer appropriate to show the compilation of atrocity material to Germans. The Americans and British were said to have decided this because of political considerations of the future role of Germany.

Hitchcock, who was by then famous on both sides of the Atlantic as a film-maker, acted only as a treatment advisor for the producers of the documentary, Gladstone said. He arrived in London after all of the footage was made and left about two months before the project was dropped. But his name appears with that of C. Wills and others as directors of the film.

Gladstone was told by Tanner that at one of his meetings with Hitchcock, the British-born American film director made a point of saying the horrors shown in the documentary would be disbelieved by the public. Hitchcock insisted therefore that every endeavor must be made in the editing not to resort to trickery which would give the impression that the film was contrived or faked.

NJCRCAC CONCLAVE TOLD THAT MANY OF THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS IT FAVORS WILL HAVE TO BE SLASHED
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- The more than 400 American Jewish leaders attending the 40th anniversary plenary session of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) were told today that many of the economic and social programs the NJCRAC has long favored will have to be cut even more in order to reduce the budget deficit which is nearing \$200 billion.

But Sen. Robert Dole (R. Kan.) said he believes Congress will act in a bipartisan manner to take some type of action to begin reducing the deficit. "If we do nothing, we are inviting economic chaos" within the next 12 months, he said.

Alice Rivlin, a Democrat and former Congressional budget director, agreed, saying that if the deficit was not reduced and interest rates lowered, than even with economic growth the poorest people in the country will continue to suffer.

Says Reductions Will Not Please Everyone

Dole, who is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, noted that the reductions will not please everyone. "As long as we cut somebody else's program, it doesn't bother me," Dole said describing the general attitude of most people. "But try to cut my programs and that's not legislating, that's meddling."

Rivlin, who is head of the economics study program at the Brookings Institution said there will be "still more cuts in programs you care about." Dole said he believes that his committee will begin making a start on substantial cuts that will be acceptable to both Democrats and Republicans before the presidential election campaign gets into full swing.

Rivlin proposed a modified freeze on spending with eliminating the cost of living increases except for the very poor. She called for holding defense spending to a three percent increase in real terms. She also urged an immediate tax surcharge but said what was eventually needed was a tax increase and a simpler, fairer and more efficient tax system.

At a luncheon today, Washington Mayor Marion Barry presented a key to the city to the NJCRAC which is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a four day meeting at the Washington Hilton Hotel ending Wednesday.

'Vital Role' Of NJCRAC Cited

Jacqueline Levine, who was re-elected to a second one-year term as the NJCRAC's chairperson, said that during its four decades of existence the NJCRAC, which is the national coordinating and joint planning body for 11 national and 111 local Jewish community relations agencies, played a "vital role" in bringing about "revolutionary changes in the nature and character of American society."

Noting the Jewish community's commitment to "the strength of the American democratic system," Levine cited its "singular contribution" in giving life to the First Amendment, to the principle of separation of church and state through legal briefs in the 1940's and 1950's that were adopted in Supreme Court decisions in the 1960's.

Levine pointed to the "partnership with the NAACP in developing a total package of civil rights legislation" and in creating the national Leadership Conference on Civil Rights which operates today, as well as in cooperative action on the state and local level.

By the 1960's, when civil rights legislation had "changed the face of America," Levine noted, priorities were shifted. "We had been preoccupied with our status as Americans and the status of our fellow Americans, particularly the Black community," she explained.

But "as threats to our security as American Jews diminished, we were moved in new directions as a result of threats to the security of our fellow Jews abroad." She noted the focus is now on issues such as the plight of Soviet Jewry, support for Israel and the defense of other Jewish communities throughout the world.

LEVY ACCUSES CABINET COLLEAGUES OF FABRICATING GOSSIP ABOUT HIM
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier David Levy has angrily accused certain fellow Cabinet ministers, who he did not name, of "fabricating scurrilous gossip" about him. He issued that statement last night after "anonymous ministers" leaked a report to Israel Radio that Levy had been "attacked" and "upbraided" at the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday.

The alleged attacks were said to have been prompted by Levy's recent public statements favoring an early decision to redeploy the Israel Defense Force in south Lebanon and criticizing the IDF armored patrols north of the Awali River. The Cabinet was reported yesterday to have reached a broad agreement that now is not an opportune time to decide on a redeployment of the IDF to more southerly lines.

Aides to Levy said today that there had been no "upbraiding" of the Deputy Premier. But Premier Yitzhak Shamir and other ministers are understood to have spoken out sharply against Cabinet members who make statements to the media after delicate and highly confidential discussions in the Cabinet. Shamir did not mention Levy by name but is believed to have been referring to his public statements.

BEHIND THE HEAD LINES THE JEWS OF ARGENTINA

By David Landau

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Argentina is in many respects one generation behind the rest of Western Jewry. The gap does not involve material things since communal organizations are very much up to date in terms of using state-of-the-arts technology such as computers, comparable to that used by the most advanced American Jewish Federations and fund-raising organizations.

The generation gap is rather in the structure of the community and in its cultural life.

Perhaps the most salient example is the way the Asociacion Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA), the central religious and communal organization of Buenos Aires, is run -- along party-political lines. All the traditional Zionist parties are represented, and they fight each other with vigor at election time, and cooperate uneasily between elections in shifting coalitions.

In other Western communities this outworn -- many would say anachronistic -- set-up is found in the Zionist Federations (and is widely criticized by the younger generation there). In Argentina, the parties and their officials still hold sway over the central communal organ, to which virtually all Ashkenazi Jews have recourse. (The Sephardim have their own separate organization.)

New Winds Blowing Through the Jewish Community

AMIA elections are scheduled for this spring, and, probably under the influence of the nation's return to democracy under President Raul Alfonsin, new winds are blowing through the Jewish community, too.

A group calling itself Brera or Choice has been established by liberal-inclined communal leaders, and they are of a mind to run in the elections and challenge the long-held hegemony of the Labor-Zionist Party.

The moving spirit is Saul Rochberger, a former president of the Hebraica, the big sports-and-culture movement within the Jewish community. Brera's platform, Rochberger told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, calls for religious pluralism -- that is, a role in the communal leadership structure for Conservative and Reform -- and universal suffrage.

The virtual monopoly of the Orthodox is another example of Argentina's "lagging behind the times," Rochberger and other Brera figures feel. They attribute it in part at least to inter-party deals dictated by the Zionist parties' head offices in Israel to their adherents in Buenos Aires.

The suffrage rules at present permit only paid-up AMIA members for two years prior to the election to vote in the poll. In the last election, a mere 8,000 people voted, out of some 30,000 eligible members. Brera wants to see new, broader-based rules that would encourage younger people to take an interest in communal life.

Another Hangover From The Past

Another hangover from the past, common nowadays only in Latin American Jewry and prevalent particularly in Argentina, is secular Jewish education, and even Yiddishist education. This is a thing of the past in most other parts of the diaspora where Jewish education is usually religiously -- though not necessarily Orthodox -- oriented.

Countrywide in Argentina, according to Jewish officials here, some 20,000 Jewish children attend Jewish schools. This is an impressive figure -- but it means that many tens of thousands of other Jewish children do not receive Jewish schooling.

(The overall Jewish population figure for Argentina is a matter of controversy among experts. The best assessment by Israeli demographers is around 250,000.)

According to Labor Knesset member Rabbi Menachem Hacohen, many of the children not attending Jewish schools are denied Jewish education because their parents cannot afford it. They are children of the lower middle class; families of wage-earning parents who are suffering harshly from Argentina's economic crisis.

Hacohen has visited Argentina and spent time touring educational institutions. The very rich, he says, can afford the best Jewish schools. The very poor -- their poverty is established by stringent means tests -- have their tuition paid for by the community. But the in-betweens suffer.

For instance, Hacohen noted in a recent conversation with JTA, a frequent means test question is: did you have a summer holiday? Most Argentines go to great effort to spend part of the long summer vacation at the seaside. But that does not mean, in many cases, that they are well-off enough to pay the often steep fees in Jewish schools -- especially when non-Jewish schooling is free.

The Colony Of Moisesville

One Jewish community I visited where virtually all the children attend the Jewish school is the colony of Moisesville, the first of the agricultural settlements established by the turn-of-the-century European Jewish philanthropist Baron Maurice (Moses) Hirsch.

Situated in the Santa Fe province, some 600 kilometers from Buenos Aires, Moisesville is no longer the entirely Jewish township it was 20 or 30 years ago. But there are still nearly 1,000 Jews (some 30 percent of the present population). Most of the Jewish families own small cattle farms in the area.

All the children attend the Yahadut school and many go on to the teachers' seminar that functions in the school building in the afternoon. (The seminar, founded in the 1950's by local educator Yosef Dreznin, takes in students from other Jewish communities, too, who board in Moisesville during the school term.)

The teachers, mostly young women who live in Moisesville and whose husbands farm in the area, are all fluent in Hebrew and some speak a fine literary Yiddish, too.

Why do they choose to stay in this small and remote village? Says Chava Gelbert-Rosenthal, long-time teacher at the seminar and mother of three, "There is no better place to bring up children." Her son and two daughters love the outdoor life. "Ariel is a gaucho in spirit," Chava says of her nine-year-old flaxen-haired son Arye whose pride and joy is his chestnut mare.

Many young people from Moisesville moved to Israel over the years, some of them settling on kibbutzim and moshavim there. Many others moved off to Cordoba, Rosario or Buenos Aires, in search of university education and broader opportunities. Those who remain, Chava stresses, do so "because we like the life."

A visitor from the outside may well envy Chava and her friends and family their quiet, bucolic existence. But Moisesville, too, conjures up in the minds of some Jewish visitors from abroad pictures of the shtetl.