

**IMPROVEMENT SEEN IN RELATIONS
BETWEEN GREECE AND ISRAEL**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA) — There is a slow but perceptible improvement in relations between Greece and Israel, according to Israeli government sources.

A high-level Greek delegation which attended the opening in Jerusalem last week of Hellenic House on the Hebrew University campus was an indicator, according to the sources, of the thaw in the long-frosty relationship between Athens and Jerusalem.

The Greek party was not here in an official capacity, but rather as guests of the university to attend the dedication of the project which is funded by the Jewish community of Salonika.

A delegation of more than 100 Greek personalities, headed by the country's former President, Constantine Tsatsos, came for the event. Among them were Salonika Mayor Theoharis Manevis; well-known newspaper publisher Helen Vlachou; the head of the Cultural Treaties Department of the Ministry of Science and Culture, Constantine Coroullis; Secretary-General of the Ministry of Science and Culture, Constantine Alavanos; and the chairman of the Hellas-Israel League, Dimitri Nikolaidis.

The building, on Mount Scopus, is dedicated to the memory of the more than 65,000 Salonika Jews slain by the Nazis.

Basin For The Anomalous Relationship

Greece, alone among the European Economic Community (EEC) members, does not have full diplomatic ties with Israel; the envoys in the two countries are designated "diplomatic representatives" rather than "ambassadors plenipotentiary."

This anomalous relationship stemmed from Greece's close links to the Arab world, especially in the early years of the State of Israel when there were still large Greek communities in several key Middle Eastern cities, such as Alexandria.

Some Israeli experts had predicted a worsening of relations when the leftist Pasok Party took power in Athens, and indeed the Papandreu government has extended diplomatic status to an office of the PLO in Athens.

But despite this, the relationship with Israel seems to be slowly improving. Recently the Director-General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, David Kimche, held political talks in Athens and a return high-level official visit is expected during this year.

Observers say the Athens government is under pressure both from EEC capitals and from political circles in the United States to regularize its relationship with Israel.

3 IDF SOLDIERS WOUNDED IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 18 (JTA) — Three Israeli soldiers were wounded in two incidents in south Lebanon over the weekend, none seriously. In both cases the casualties were caused by explosives detonated at roadsides as Israeli military vehicles passed by.

A military spokesman reported that a soldier was wounded today when an explosive charge was triggered near two armored personnel carriers on a road at the eastern approaches to Sidon. There have been numerous attacks on Israeli personnel in that area in the past two weeks, military sources said.

Two soldiers were wounded Friday by an explosion on a road north of Nabatiya where their mobile unit was on patrol. A search for the perpetrators was carried out by Israeli forces and units of the Lebanese army. Moslem religious extremists are known to have been active there in recent days.

Reports from Beirut Friday said an Israel Defense Force patrol consisting of two tanks and four armored personnel carriers probed north of the IDF lines on the Awali River. Meanwhile, the port of Sidon was reopened after having been shut down for nearly two weeks following explosions on the docks that wounded 11 IDF soldiers, one of whom subsequently died.

**LEBANESE RECONCILIATION TALKS ARE
BOGGED DOWN OVER A DRAFT AGREEMENT**

By Edwin Eytan

LAUSANNE, March 18 (JTA) — The Lebanese national reconciliation conference, entering its second week here, was bogged down as leaders of the warring factions continued to wrangle over a draft agreement for a more equitable sharing of political power between Christians and Moslems.

The cease-fire in Beirut, on which all factions were in accord when it was declared last Tuesday, broke down over the weekend in a new eruption of fighting that claimed at least 15 lives. Fear was expressed that the renewed clashes might render meaningless any progress made in the discussions here.

"The conference might be entering many difficulties," one observer remarked after hours of inconclusive bargaining yesterday. "We want a new historical compromise and if we do not get it, it will mean another 10 years of civil war," Walid Jumblatt, leader of Lebanon's Druze community, warned.

Arguing Over A Working Paper

The participants are arguing over a working paper prepared by President Amin Gemayel that would grant equal representation in parliament to Christians and Moslems. The Christians presently command 53 seats to 45 for the various Moslem factions. Gemayel's compromise would also expand the powers of the Prime Minister, who is traditionally a Moslem and correspondingly reduce those of the President, a Maronite Christian.

But conference sources said Jumblatt and Nabih Berri, leader of the Shiite Moslem Al Amal militia, are demanding more far reaching reforms, though they have not rejected Gemayel's paper entirely.

Berri is said to want an end to the "confessional" system which has governed Lebanese politics since the country was granted independence by France in the 1940s. Under that system, seats in Parliament are allocated in accordance with the numerical strength of the various religious groups.

Former President Suleiman Franjeh, a Maronite Christian allied with Berri against his co-religionists

of the Gemayel clan, would like the old system retained in part. Syria's Foreign Minister and newly appointed First Vice President, Abdel Khalim Khadam, was reportedly mediating between the two.

Khadam is attending the conference ostensibly as an observer. But most observers agree that Syria is running the conference although it seems now to be having difficulties reconciling the anti-government factions that it supports.

Israeli Reporters Ousted From Press Conference

Meanwhile, three Israeli correspondents were ousted from a press conference called by Berri on Friday. He had invited 50 local and foreign journalists to his hotel suite but the Israelis were blocked by his bodyguards and ordered to leave. Berri explained later, "I do not talk to the enemy. We are now at war with Israel."

The Israelis immediately lodged a protest with the Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Auber in Berne, complaining of discrimination for national and religious reasons. A Foreign Ministry aide discussed the matter with the Lebanese Ambassador but the Swiss decided not to pursue it for fear of making matters worse, a spokesman said.

Israel Not Discouraged By Accord's Abrogation

Menahem Savidor, Speaker of the Knesset, who is in Geneva, called his own press conference at United Nations headquarters there Friday. He said Israel was not discouraged by Lebanon's abrogation of its May 17, 1983 withdrawal and security agreement with Israel. The Lebanese Cabinet declared it "null and void" on March 5, before the Lausanne conference opened.

Savidor said Israel would not pull its troops out of Lebanon unilaterally and not until it has iron-clad guarantees that south Lebanon will not again become a staging area for terrorist attacks on Israel. He said that it was possible that after a reasonable lapse of time, conditions might be created for negotiations with moderate parties in Lebanon to ensure the security of Israel's northern borders.

He said that Israel continues to maintain contact with all parties concerned. "It cannot be ruled out that once more a buffer zone will be established," he said. Asked if Israel would pull out of Lebanon if the conference demands it, he replied, "How can one trust a written agreement from people who embrace in the morning and quarrel and kill each other in the evening."

He was referring to the fierce verbal battles and the angry walk-outs that have alternated with demonstrations of amity since the reconciliation conference opened here last Monday and the renewed fighting in Beirut despite the cease-fire ordered by all the factions.

RESPECTED ACADEMIC JOURNAL ASSAILED BY WIESENTHAL CENTER FOR CARRYING REVISIONIST AD

LOS ANGELES, March 18 (JTA) — The prestigious academic journal, German Quarterly, has been criticized by the Wiesenthal Center at Yeshiva University for running a full-page advertisement for the Institute for Historical Review (IHR), a group the Center had identified as being dedicated to the denial of the Holocaust.

In a letter dated March 14, Wiesenthal Center director Dr. Gerald Margolis demanded that the German Quarterly publish a "complete retraction of the ad and a repudiation" of the IHR. He added

that the Center "considers the inclusion of this advertisement in your significant publication to be offensive and an unwholesome statement to the academic community."

The German Quarterly is published by the American Association of Teachers of German and is supported, in part, by a grant from the Ohio State University German Department and College of the Humanities, the Center said.

Ad Promotes A New Revisionist Book

The ad, which appeared in the journal's winter 1984 issue, promoted the IHR's new book, "The 'Holocaust' — 120 Questions and Answers," by Charles E. Weber. The text of the ad described the "extensive Jewish mortality during the Second World War" as "allegations."

It labelled the death of six million Jews in the Holocaust "the extermination thesis ... derived from Zionist sources." The ad concluded by proclaiming the book "a series of lucid, well organized questions and answers suited for classroom use and stimulation of further research."

Center Identified Book's Author

Wiesenthal Center officials identified Weber as the former head of foreign languages at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma and a member of the editorial advisory committee of the IHR. Center officials noted that in the summer 1982 issue of the IHR Journal, Weber wrote: "As a result of heavy Jewish influence in the American news media, especially in television, few typical American political figures would dare to question the 'Holocaust' material although many of them are aware of the reasons for doubting its validity."

In its current newsletter, the IHR is selling bumper stickers with the slogan "Nazi Gassing a Myth?" with proceeds of the sales to go towards the mailing of their new book to "121,979 educators in the U.S."

In his letter to the German Quarterly, Margolis stated that the Wiesenthal Center hoped that the journal would move rapidly to remove "the sheen of academic legitimacy" that it has bestowed upon these "neo-Nazi apologists."

JTA'S JERUSALEM CORRESPONDENT ON THREE-WEEK TOUR IN LOS ANGELES

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA) — Gil Sedan, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Jerusalem correspondent, will begin a two-week lecture tour tomorrow in Los Angeles as guest of the American Zionist Federation. Sedan, 38, who also works as the West Bank reporter for Israel Television, will focus most of his lectures on problems relating to the local Arab population, and the effect of the administered territories on Israel's security, political and social scenes.

His schedule will include an interview on the Jewish Federation Council Cable TV, discussions with university faculties and students, as well as meetings with local Jewish organizations including the young leadership of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Middle East Commission of the Federation Council, American Jewish Committee, and leaders of the American Zionist Federation.

PURIM IN ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 18 (JTA) — Purim got off to a cheerful start today with Galei Zahal, the army radio network, announcing a "major new Israeli breakthrough: cloud-seeding that will extend the winter until July."

The item, carefully prepared, was broadcast on the network's morning newsreel and must have had at least some listeners agog with amazement. Labor Alignment MK Yossi Sarid, Likud MK Ehud Olmert and Agudat Israel MK Shlomo Lorincz were interviewed about the new discovery. Sarid -- predictably -- accused the government of making political capital from a scientific success; Olmert -- predictably -- attributed the success to the government; and Lorincz -- predictably -- expressed skepticism of the discovery and insisted that only God makes rain.

The report claimed that the past week's wet weather -- the first heavy rain for nearly two months -- was the result of the new cloud-seeding technique and now the Cabinet would decide if the winter would continue until July -- or, as the farmers were demanding, until September.

Rain last night seemed to dampen Purim spirits a little in Tel Aviv but the weather was brighter today and the streets were crowded with children in fancy-dress. On the promenade, clowns entertained passersby in a show sponsored by several of the hotels.

In Jerusalem, Purim is celebrated tonight and tomorrow -- since it is an ancient walled city which, by halacha, observes Shushan Purim instead of regular Purim. Former Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef has ruled, however, that the new outlying suburb of Ramat north of the capital must keep the regular Purim, it being relatively far from the walled Old City.

JACKSON CALLS FOR 'TRIALOGUE' BETWEEN AMERICAN BLACKS, JEWS, ARABS TO HELP BRING ABOUT MIDEAST PEACE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 18 (JTA) -- The Rev. Jesse Jackson called today for a "trialogue" between American Blacks, Arabs and Jews to help bring about peace in the Middle East.

"We Blacks, Arabs and Jews must talk to each other and not at each other," Jackson said in an address to about 1,200 persons attending the national convention of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) at the Washington Hilton Hotel. "We Blacks, Arabs and Jews can export an American experience to the Middle East and not import their experiences here," he said.

Jackson, a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, said it was a "tragedy" that there was no dialogue in the Middle East but it was "even more (tragic) to see it here." He said "the Jewish community must be challenged to know the pain of the Palestinians. The Jewish community must be helped to understand and identify with Palestinian exile ..."

But, he added, "just as Jews must be helped to know the suffering of Palestinians, we must challenge the Palestinians to know and understand the fears and the history and suffering of the Jewish people as well."

Urges U.S. To Talk To PLO And Israel

Jackson reiterated his position that peace in the Middle East requires both security for Israel behind internationally recognized borders and a Palestinian state. He urged the U.S. government to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization as well as to Israel.

Jackson's speech was interrupted by standing ovations a number of times with several people yelling, "Run Jesse, run," the familiar exhortation

of encouragement by supporters of his candidacy. The convention ended at the conclusion of his speech. A fund-raiser for Jackson was held immediately afterwards.

James Zogby, ADC's executive director and a co-chairman of the Jackson campaign, said that Jackson's "rainbow coalition" is a movement for "democratic rights. American Arabs have been locked out of the process and now we are invited into the process," he said.

James Abourezk, ADC national chairman and a former Democratic Senator from South Dakota, said that Jackson "paid the price of not being an Arab-hater" through the villification he has received in the national press.

Declaring that he has spoken out against racism and anti-Semitism in his campaign, Jackson charged that "anti-Arab sentiments so prevalent in Western culture are another form of anti-Semitism." He said "killings and occupations are legitimated for anti-Arab reasons," stressing that he was speaking of Arab experiences throughout the Middle East.

UNRWA OFFICIAL PRAISES ISRAEL

By David Kantor

BONN, March 18 (JTA) -- A ranking official of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has publicly praised Israel for its treatment of Palestinian refugees in areas under its control, including parts of Lebanon.

The remarks by Olof Rydbeck, a Commissioner of UNRWA, at a press conference here surprised observers inasmuch as the UN agency often has been accused of anti-Israel bias. Rydbeck, who met with Bonn government officials and members of Parliament, is trying to raise money for UNRWA work.

He said the Arab contribution to the budget of the organization set up to care for Palestinian refugees has been dwindling lately. It amounted to \$17 million in 1981, \$14 million in 1982, but only \$4 million in 1983.

Rydbeck said the Israeli authorities are cooperating with UNRWA in spite of occasional friction. He said the Israelis are contributing to the free movement of UNRWA "at least" as much as Jordan and Egypt had done or are doing in areas which were formerly or are still under their control where UNRWA facilities are located.

Questioned about reports of repressive acts by Israel against Palestinians in Lebanon, Rydbeck said that in fact Israel intervened in at least one case to prevent the massacre of Palestinians by other groups in Lebanon. He said he was concerned for the safety of Palestinians in Lebanon if the Israelis withdraw from that country because it is the Israelis who protect them.

Rydbeck also said that the figure of a half million Palestinian refugees displaced by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June, 1982, was inflated. According to the UNRWA official, 237,000 Palestinian refugees are registered in Lebanon of whom 190,000 receive aid.

He added that the overall number could not exceed 300,000. He based that figure on the number of Palestinian children who are registered at UNRWA institutions because they are not admitted to Lebanese schools.

Rydbeck spoke of an UNRWA school controlled by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon prior to the 1982 war which, he said, was used to train PLO fighters. He confirmed that many PLO fighters were registered as refugees and received assistance from UNRWA.

EXHIBITION MOUNTED TO MAKE AMERICANS AWARE OF PLO ATROCITIES

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 18 (JTA) -- When Dr. Morton Freiman, a North Miami Beach plastic surgeon, arrived in Israel last December 6, he was there for a simcha -- his sister-in-law's wedding. But he learned that afternoon that a bus had been blown up by terrorists in Jerusalem and one of the bridesmaids had been injured.

"When I visited her in the hospital, the look in her eyes made an impression on me," Freiman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The bus, No. 18, was the same line that his 18-year-old daughter, an art student in Jerusalem, uses every day.

Freiman said he knew he had to do something. That something was to mount an exhibit to make the American public aware of the atrocities committed by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The exhibit opened Friday at the B'nai B'rith's international headquarters here, under the co-sponsorship of a committee formed by Freiman, PLOT, an organization of private citizens publicizing the terrorist activities of the PLO, and the D.C.-Maryland regional office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. It is expected to be shown in other parts of the country, too.

Highlights Of The Exhibit

The highlight's of the exhibit are two fragments Freiman obtained from the bombed bus. One is a piece of the bus front and the other is the number box of the bus with a skirt embedded in it which apparently had been blown into the box during the explosion.

The exhibit also includes items that had been used to conceal terrorist bombs, which Freiman obtained on loan from the Israeli police, the first time they have been allowed to leave Israel. They include a woman's shoe with a hollowed-out heel, a candy box, a toy telephone, a cigarette carton, a wine bottle, a paint can, as well as some items that were torn apart during terrorist incidents.

The exhibit also includes a blown-up picture of terrorist activities in Israel and elsewhere, including the December 6 bus bombing in which the two items Freiman has on display can be seen.

Freiman stressed that he organized the exhibit without any help from the governments in Israel or in the United States. He said the items were shipped here in a crate by his brother-in-law. The cost of the exhibit was \$20,000 which was raised by Freiman and the other members of the committee.

At the opening ceremony Friday, Dr. Robert Wolf of Miami, co-chairman of PLOT, said the purpose of the exhibit is to "attack terror by public opinion and inspire others to do the same."

U.S. To Respond To Terrorist Acts

Marshall Breger, President Reagan's special assistant for liaison with the Jewish community, said that "no one who goes through this exhibit can any more harbor the illusion, if not the delusion, that the PLO can call itself a moderate organization."

He noted that Reagan in his speech to the National United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Conference last Tuesday, condemned Yasir Arafat and the PLO "by name" for the attack on the bus. He said the Administration is preparing means of responding to terrorist acts which will be presented to Congress soon.

Victor Harel, the Israel Embassy's press counselor, said the exhibit may help "those who don't suffer terrorism directly" to "understand better" what Israelis go through. He called PLO terrorism the "worst disease" in the world, noting it was aimed only at civilians.

"It is the kind of terrorism that prompted our action in Lebanon," Harel said. "We can no longer tolerate the intolerable."

Sen. Paula Hawkins (R. Fla.) said that "if every act of terrorism is universally condemned by governments and the public alike, the terrorists will realize that no cause, no idea, no ideology, will gain support or sympathy." Instead, she noted, "their acts will be counter-productive" if "we speak out and let our feelings be known."

Hawkins expressed the hope that "the PLO will cease to exist. It has brought the Palestinians further away from the realization of their dreams. Palestinian hopes depend on realistic pragmatic leadership that can negotiate and comprise and finally achieve peace in the Middle East."

CUOMO SIGNS BILL TO ESTABLISH WALLENBERG DAY

ALBANY, N.Y., March 18 (JTA) -- Governor Mario Cuomo signed a bill last week establishing October 5 as Raoul Wallenberg Day. The bill, sponsored by Assemblyman Alan Hevesi (Queens) and Senator Donald Halperin (Brooklyn) passed the Assembly by a vote of 145-0 and the Senate by a vote of 59-0.

Hevesi, president of the National Association of Jewish Legislators, said October 5 was chosen as Raoul Wallenberg Day "because it is the day that Congress gave him status as an honorary United States citizen" in 1981.

Hevesi observed that "this commemoration will provide lasting recognition of the heroic actions" of Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved more than 100,000 Hungarian Jews from Nazi death camps.

"In addition to other extraordinary efforts, Wallenberg saved 75,000 people in one day by convincing a German general to countermand official orders," Hevesi recalled. "I am particularly indebted to this great man. Two of my relatives, an aunt and an uncle, were among those he saved. My uncle, who still lives in Budapest, has just celebrated his 80th birthday."

Wallenberg was seized by the Russians after they liberated Budapest and disappeared in the Soviet Union. Although the Russians contend that he died some years ago, there are many who believe that he remains imprisoned somewhere in the USSR to this day. If alive, he would be 71 years old.

BRAILOVSKY RELEASED FROM EXILE

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Viktor Brailovsky has been released from three years of internal exile and has rejoined his family in Moscow, it was reported here.

The 48-year-old computer scientist was arrested and charged with "circulating fabrications known to be false which defame the Soviet state and social system." He was exiled to the Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan. Brailovsky was sentenced to five years of exile, but because of his lengthy period of pre-trial detention the sentence was shortened. He has been active in the Jewish cultural and emigration movements since first applying to emigrate to Israel in 1972. One of the official organizers of the weekly, unofficial refusenik scientists' seminars, Brailovsky was the co-editor of the samizdat journal "Jews in the USSR."