

**PERES SAYS HIS TALKS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS HAVE REASSURED HIM THAT THE U.S. UNDERSTANDS ISRAEL'S PROBLEMS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10 (JTA) — Israeli Premier Shimon Peres said Wednesday he was leaving Washington after two days of talks with Reagan Administration officials "reassured about the nature and the scope of the support and understanding" for Israel's problems.

But Peres stressed, at a press conference before leaving for New York, that while most of the talks centered around Israel's economic problems, the real issue was how a democracy in a non-democratic region could maintain its political and military strength.

"I did not come to Washington in order to raise money so that we shall be able to maintain the standard of life in Israel," he said. "We shall do it ourselves."

**Needs Of Israel's Army**

Peres explained that Israel needs United States help in maintaining the present size of its army, both in personnel and weaponry, as well as replacing old weapons with a new generation of armaments. He noted that Israel pays for 70 percent of its defense and the remaining 30 percent comes from the United States in aid to buy military hardware.

The Premier said that while Israel has received large-scale United States aid, the value of the dollar has decreased because of inflation, while the price of weaponry has gone up greatly.

As an example, he said that, in 1974 when large-scale U.S. aid began, Israel had U.S. Phantom jets which cost \$4 million each. The U.S. F-15s and F-16s Israel is now buying to replace the Phantoms cost about \$40 million per plane.

**Expresses Gratitude For U.S. Aid**

Peres expressed gratitude that the United States has agreed to provide Israel immediately with \$1.2 billion of the \$2.6 billion in grants it is receiving in the 1985 fiscal year, which began October 1. He said this would help Israel meet its immediate needs.

Peres also expressed the gratitude of Israel for support in Congress. He said the 96-0 vote in the Senate and the 436-6 vote in the House to create a Free Trade Area between Israel and the United States was "an outstanding phenomenon" which "warms our hearts."

The joint economic development group between Israel and the United States, announced by President Reagan after his two-hour meeting with Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday, is designed to help the new unity government restructure Israel's economy, Peres explained. Peres said his government wants to change Israel's economy from dependence on its old industries to an information economy which exports science and technology.

The government hopes to increase exports from the present \$11 billion a year to \$19 billion, the Premier said. He said this would end the balance of trade deficit and help make Israel self-sufficient and thus need less aid from the United States. He said Israel wants to increase productivity and exports, particularly exports to the United States.

Peres, who, after his meeting with Reagan Tuesday, called the President "a true friend of Israel," stressed that he had come to the United States because of "Israel's needs" and not because of anything connected with the U.S. Presidential election. "I feel very strongly that Israel is not a partisan issue in American life," he said.

Noting that he was scheduled to meet former Vice President Walter Mondale in New York Wednesday afternoon, Peres said that he has known Mondale for many years and has had "good relations" with him. Asked if the Democratic Presidential candidate was also a true friend of Israel, Peres said "What's wrong with having many friends?"

**Says U.S., Israel See 'Eye To Eye' On Lebanon**

Peres contended that in his meeting with Reagan and five meetings with Secretary of State George Shultz he found the United States and Israel see "eye to eye" on Lebanon. He said that while Israel plans to withdraw from Lebanon, a process he said would take six to nine months, he would not comment on whether Israel would do so unilaterally without a serious commitment not to cross the red line, where its troops are now deployed, or to keep the Palestinian terrorists from doing so.

"We do not look for any trade-off on the Syrian side," Peres said. "It is up to the Syrians to decide if they want to confront every morning our army deployed alongside their line ... 16-17 miles from the outskirts of Damascus."

Peres said that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) could replace the Israeli troops in the areas from which Israel withdraws. But he made clear again that Israel wants the troops commanded by Brig. Gen. Antoine Lahad to remain along the border to patrol the areas from where Katyusha rockets could hit northern Israel.

Peres said Lahad, the successor to the late Saad Haddad, represents the "real desire of the Lebanese people who reside in southern Lebanon. I think they are as much interested in keeping southern Lebanon peaceful as we are."

**Reagan Plan 'Is Not Operational'**

Peres said that while Reagan renewed his commitment to his September 1, 1982 peace initiative, the Israelis were not asked yesterday to support it. "We know the initiative is in existence," the Premier said. "But for the time being, it is not operational."

Peres stressed that "problem is not so much the nature of the plan but the necessity for a serious partner. Finding the partner must precede to agreeing about a plan."

He said discussions were held with the Administration on renewing the peace process with Egypt and Jordan. "We have not given up hope," he said. He said he believed in an American expression, "quitters are not winners and winners are not quitters," adding that by winning, he means "winning a durable peace in the Middle East."

Peres said he "welcomes" the meeting between King Hussein of Jordan and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He noted it broke the Arab boycott against Egypt after it signed a peace treaty with Israel, even though it still maintains peace with Israel and Israel has an Embassy in Cairo.

Peres noted that in his talks with the Administration, he did not voice any objections to United States arms sales to Egypt because Egypt is at peace with Israel. "The problem really is not arms but policies," he explained.

"If any Arab country is at peace with Israel then the supply of arms is not the real problem. But if you supply arms to a country that maintains a state of belligerency with Israel, the arms is then a support of belligerency instead of being a compensation for a peaceful process," Peres maintained.

Asked about extremists in Israel, such as Rabbi Meir Kahane, and the Jewish terrorist group whose members are now on trial, Peres noted that every country has such problems. "You do have the Ku Klux Klan," he said. He said the new unity government ensures that the mainstream of the country rejects extremism.

#### PERES URGES U.S. JEWS TO HELP ISRAEL RECOVER FROM ITS ECONOMIC CRISIS By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Oct. 10 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Shimon Peres called on American Jewry Wednesday to help Israel recover from its economic crisis and to maintain its strength.

Addressing about 100 Jewish leaders at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at the Hotel Pierre, Peres said that American Jews should join Israel and the United States as "the third partner" in the plan to restructure Israel's economy and create a new, modern economic infrastructure.

Peres arrived in New York Wednesday morning after two days of talks with President Reagan and other Administration officials in Washington. He said Israel's goal of economic recovery was discussed in those talks. "I told the Americans that we would like to restore our economy by transforming it into a hi-tech, science-based economy. We want to restructure our economy," he said.

Peres said that the first move in that direction was the creation of a joint economic development group of experts from Israel and the U.S. to help implement the programs aimed at establishing a new economic infrastructure. He said the group would hold its first meeting in the new few weeks but mentioned no date.

#### Basis For Israel's Needs

Peres, appearing before the Presidents Conference for the first time as Prime Minister of Israel, was given a standing ovation. Reporting on his talks in Washington he said that Israel does not seek American aid in order to maintain or improve the living standards of its people. Israel needs the aid, he said, to maintain its military strength and its defense capabilities.

He noted that the U.S. spends about \$130 billion a year for the defense of Europe and about \$40 billion for the defense of southeast Asia. The U.S. also keeps troops in Europe, Peres said, stressing that Israel has never asked for American soldiers.

He said Israel pays for about 70 percent of its defense needs from its own resources, the rest coming from American aid. Israel will continue to do so in defense of itself and the interests of the free world and of democracy in the Middle East, he said.

Peres explained that Israel is seeking an increase in American aid because the cost of military equipment has increased ten-fold over the last 10 years while the amount of American aid has remained the same. He noted that in 1974, after the Yom Kippur

War, when American aid started to flow to Israel, the Jewish State received \$2.6 billion, the same amount it is getting today.

#### Encouraging Response From The U.S.

In 1974, Peres continued, Israel purchased U.S. Phantom jets for \$4 million apiece. Today it must pay \$40 million apiece for F-15s and F-16s. "This is the real problem we discussed" in Washington, he said, adding that the response from the Administration "was very encouraging."

Peres said that while he was urged in Washington to cut more from Israel's budget, Israel was not asked to reduce its outlays for defense. "Nobody suggested that Israel weaken itself (militarily) for the purpose of economic strength," Peres declared.

He told the Presidents Conference that so far, Israel has made substantial cuts in its budgets for education, services and subsidies to religious institutions. It has reduced or done away with price supports for basic commodities.

He said that of Israel's budget of approximately \$21 billion, \$10 billion goes toward servicing its debts and of the remaining \$11 billion, \$4.5 billion is absorbed by defense. One of Israel's major economic goals, Peres said, is to increase its exports over the next few years from \$11 billion to \$19 billion a year.

#### Other Issues Discussed

Turning to other matters, Peres said he discussed the situation in Lebanon during his Washington talks and made it clear that Israel is interested in withdrawing its forces from Lebanon but only if proper security arrangements are made to protect its northern borders.

He said "Israel is not begging for anything from Syria" with respect to Lebanon but believes that the Syrians should be realistic and consider an Israeli withdrawal to be in their own interests.

Peres also referred to the present relationship with Egypt and the prospects of peace with Jordan. The problem is to bring Jordan into negotiations with Israel, he said. He said the Reagan plan for Mideast peace of September 1, 1982 was, as far as Israel is concerned, "not operational."

Peres reported that he had discussed in Washington the fate of Soviet Jewry and elicited a "very sympathetic and positive response" from the Administration on the issue of Soviet Jewry and the sharp drop in the emigration of Soviet Jews.

Peres declared: "The fate of Russian, Syrian and Ethiopian Jewry is our fate. We will continue the fight for their freedom and for their right to emigrate."

#### MAPAM LEADER TO VISIT NICARAGUA AT INVITATION OF THE SANDINISTAS By Gerald Reagan

NEW YORK, Oct. 10 (JTA) -- Chaika Grossman, a Mapam member of Knesset, said here last night that she will be going to Nicaragua at the invitation of its ruling Sandinista government. "I am going to Nicaragua because I am a representative of Mapam and I'm invited," she told an audience of more than 100 people at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue.

A spokesperson for Grossman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the veteran Mapam leader is scheduled to leave today for a three-day visit to the Central American country, which has been accused of forcing the Jewish community there into exile.

The Polish-born Grossman, who was a leader of the Bialystok Ghetto uprising against the Nazis, said she viewed her trip to Nicaragua as an "opportunity to see if the Sandinistas are ... real enemies." She said she wants to determine if the Sandinistas, which have reported links to the PLO, are indeed anti-Semites.

Grossman also said she will be seeking to aid in reestablishing the diplomatic ties with Israel which the Sandinistas unilaterally broke after taking power in 1979. "There is hope for new relations, if not with the new (Israeli) government, then with a part of Israel," she said.

Grossman's spokesperson said she will visit Nicaragua at Mapam's expense. She will be seeking to lay the groundwork for a possible exchange of agricultural information spearheaded by the Kibbutz Artzi Federation, representing 84 kibbutzim affiliated with Mapam.

An Israeli Consulate official here said today that the Israeli government would be willing to reestablish diplomatic ties with Nicaragua, which, he indicated, were broken by the Sandinistas.

Responding to accusations that Israel has supplied weapons to anti-Sandinista rebels fighting in Nicaragua, charges denied by Israeli government officials, Grossman pointed out that Mapam had proposed in the previous Knesset to ban the sale of weapons to any "area where there was a civil war." The proposal was defeated, she said, but added that Mapam hopes to reintroduce it.

#### Labor Party Comes Under Fire

The main thrust of her 45-minute talk was on the Labor Party decision to join with Likud to form a unity government. She said that Labor Party members, "went into elections with us as an alternative to annexations, to continued settlements, to the policy on the economy." Now, she said, people can no longer differentiate between Labor and Herut.

Grossman condemned the Labor Party for participating in the unity government, charging that some of the new government's initial economic measures have "hurt children and workers" while not cutting the military budget, effecting a withdrawal from Lebanon, or reducing the budget for the settlements.

Grossman, who was recently elected political secretary of Mapam, said that if the Labor Alignment in the Histadrut will not fight against economic proposals which she said burdened workers and the poor unfairly, "then Mapam will have to split from the Alignment in the Histadrut" just as it ended its alignment with Labor in the government and is now an independent Knesset faction. Histadrut elections are scheduled in April, 1985.

#### ORTHODOX ORGANIZATIONS CRITICIZE TV SERIES ON CIVILIZATION AND THE JEWS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Oct. 10 (JTA) -- Leaders of five major Orthodox organizations, who said that they viewed segments of the nine-part TV series "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews," have issued a joint statement expressing dismay. At the same time, Reform and Conservative leaders have expressed general approval.

The series, written and narrated by former Israel Foreign Minister Abba Eban, is being telecast on the Public Broadcasting Service's more than 270 TV stations throughout the U.S. The first part of the series was telecast October 1.

The five Orthodox agencies which issued the joint statement are Agudath Israel of America, National Council of Young Israel, Rabbinical Council of America, Religious Zionists of America, and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

Statements of support -- with some reservations, -- of the first parts of the series were made to the

Jewish Telegraphic Agency by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform), and Rabbi Alexander Shapiro, president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America (Conservative).

Efforts by the JTA to elicit a response from WNET, the PBS station in the New York area and the producer and distributor of the series, were met consistently with the response that the station had not received the statement by the Orthodox agencies.

#### Cite An 'Intolerable Offense'

Their statement said the series committed an "intolerable offense against authentic Jewish belief" and called on viewers to be on the alert to "a fundamental error in orientation" in the focus of the presentation.

"The portrayal in the film of our sacred Torah as a man-authored work incorporating myth and legend, of our faith as a slowly-evolving invention and of God-given halacha as a changeable system of law, constitutes a stab at the very heart of Judaism," the joint statement asserted, which "meshes opinion with fact in a way that can confuse even the knowledgeable viewer." It warned that "the uninformed and untutored public will be tragically misled."

"A presentation of Judaism deriving from a secular, historical, cultural and humanistic viewpoint, no matter how laudatory, misses the entire focus and axis of Jewish history," the statement added. The Orthodox agencies criticized those responsible for the series for "enlisting the counsel of only that segment of Jews whose philosophies undermine the foundations of Judaism."

#### Reactions By Reform, Conservative Leaders

Schindler said he had "absolutely no quarrel with the contents of the program, so far. Its conception of history conforms to Reform Judaism fully, even as it conforms to the approach of Jewish scholarship."

He added that he had found "the first two segments," shown October 1 and October 2, "which I saw, visually disappointing and Abba Eban's narration could be stronger from a dramatic point of view. His tones are not sufficiently varied in volume and pitch and tends to lull the viewer, but in terms of its conception, all I can say is 'bravo.' There is no doubt that this will be a helpful instrument for Jewish education."

Shapiro said that the Conservative movement, reacting to the series, "is affirming about the contribution that can be made by scientific understanding of the historical development of religion, that is, we are affirming the contributions made by Biblical archaeologists and Biblical historians."

But, Shapiro added: "I want to express my regret at the insensitivity in the program to the feelings of traditionalist Jews, who affirm a different system of values. From our standpoint, one must seek for a model that both investigates the past of the Jewish people within the background of its own times but at the same time seeking for the uniqueness of the Jewish people in its march through history."

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Hebrew University and the University of Hamburg have signed an agreement of cooperation which will involve the two universities in a variety of joint research projects and exchange of faculty and students. This is the sixth such agreement between the Hebrew University and West German institutions of higher learning.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JNF IS AT A CROSSROAD

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 10 (JTA) — The Jewish National Fund "is at a crossroad," according to its chairman, Moshe Rivlin.

Citing the government's budgetary exigencies on the one hand, and JNF's ambitious and ongoing projects on the other, Rivlin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency it was "very important," especially at this time, for JNF to raise as much of its own budget as it could from its own sources of support here and particularly in the diaspora.

JNF's afforestation work now covers an area of 1.1 million dunams, Rivlin said, out of a total area (of pre-67-Israel) of 26 million dunams.

The long-term goal, set by David Ben Gurion himself in the early years of the State, was 5 million dunams. But, considering that in 1948, when the State was created, only 48,000 dunams were tree covered, the 1.1 million figure of today represents a massive effort — and major success.

It also represents, Rivlin said, 160 million trees, most of them planted by the JNF, all of them cared for by the JNF.

A professional staff of 400 forestry experts is aided by a further 400 less skilled workers and another 1,500 day-laborers — all employed in forestry work. Plans till the end of the century — if they can be realized — call for the addition of 25,000 dunams of forest each year.

### An Important Part Of Israel's Heritage

As important as the statistics is the fact, stressed by Rivlin, that the forests have finally, in recent years, become an important part of the popular national heritage. Thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of Israelis spend festivals and holidays picnicking, hiking, camping or just sitting "amidst nature" in the recreational areas that JNF has developed in many of its woodlands.

Rivlin again reeled off a stream of facts and figures: 33 large-scale national parks, 23 smaller parks, 50 "active recreation" sites (with specially built facilities for sports and exercises for holiday-makers of all ages), 10 camp sites (used by hundreds of groups of youngsters — from Israel and abroad) during the spring-through autumn period, and 600 picnic sites.

JNF's work in this area involves not merely forestry proper — but providing roads, kiosks, lavatories and other facilities for the public. "Most of our budget goes for maintenance," Rivlin said, such as pruning the trees, cleaning up after holiday-makers and guarding against brushfires. "If we didn't keep the standards up, there would quickly be a degeneration," he said.

### Proud Of The 'Forest Family'

Rivlin spoke with pride of the "forest family" — longtime JNF employees some of whom started in forestry as a form of state-provided labor when they first immigrated to Israel in the early 1950's and found it impossible to get gainful employment.

He pointed to one of these, Mordechai Ruach, who began as an immigrant from Egypt hoeing and digging for JNF and today is head of the JNF's entire central region.

"The forest family" of the 1980's, Rivlin noted, has expanded to include scientists — specialists in areas unheard of as recently as 10 or 15 years ago. Their job is to study tree-sicknesses, to stop them spreading, to experiment with new strains.

The JNF chairman cited a number of JNF prestige projects. One of them, Uvda Park in the Negev, near the new Uvda Air Force Base, already boasts 65,000 trees. Apart from providing enhanced quality-of-life for the base's permanent personnel, the park provides another key Air Force-related function: it helps keep the base's runway sand-free.

Rivlin said there was such intense appreciation on the base for the JNF's efforts in the arid area that the commander has named the central avenue of the base JNF Boulevard.

The parks around Jerusalem are another prestige project whose purpose, Rivlin said, is to surround the capital with a verdant belt. In the north "the planting is almost completed — in a belt from Ramot to Neve Yaacov. The next stage, on which we are now embarking, is to stretch from Neve Yaacov to Government House," he explained.

To the south of the city, meanwhile, the model park of Gilo is already in constant and enormously successful use by people of all ages from Gilo itself and from a broad catchment area.

Rivlin and Mayor Teddy Kollek have recently agreed on detailed plans for four more such parks: at Kiryat Menachem, government House, Sanhedria, and south of Ramot. (At Ramot itself, a second model park is already in active use.)

"We intend to help Tel Aviv too," Rivlin said. Together with City Hall, JNF has developed an ambitious project to clean up and landscape the entire length of both banks of the Yarkon River which flows through the northern suburbs of the city.

Another project, Timna Park, north of Eilat, landscaped around ancient ruins, is a great success with tourists to the southern resort. JNF plans to enhance its tourist attractiveness by digging a large artificial lake in the park.

### All Can Share In The Projects

There are just a few of JNF's ongoing forest-related activities. Rivlin stressed that virtually all the funding for this part of JNF's work comes from JNF's own fund-raising abroad — unlike its land-work, where it puts itself and its machinery and expertise at the disposal of the government and the World Zionist Organization settlement department, and relies in major part on government funding.

The parks projects, integrated into the ambitious afforestation scheme, means, Rivlin said, that Israelis from all over the country can find in relatively short distances from their homes enjoyable and healthy outdoor recreational facilities, and that tourists from abroad can share them too.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) — Over a million flowers from Israel and 43 other countries go on display at the 10th International Flower Show which opened in Holon south of Tel Aviv Tuesday evening. Israel is being represented by 370 growers. The exhibition will remain open until the end of the Succoth festival. The show will have three pavilions and areas covering 16 acres, devoted to Israeli plants; an "exotic pavilion" housing unusual flowers from Africa and Asia, including a rare collection of orchids from Singapore; and a general world exhibit.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) — More than 400 psychologists from Israel and abroad participated recently in the first conference of the Sigmund Freud Center for Study and Research in Psychoanalysis at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.