

**PERES SAYS ISRAEL DOES NOT NEED
A 'THEORETICAL PEACE PLAN'
BUT A 'PARTNER FOR DIALOGUE'**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres said today that what Israel needs "is not another theoretical peace plan" but "a partner for dialogue" without preconditions.

In a foreign policy statement to the Knesset on behalf of the Labor-Likud unity government, Peres pledged that if there is a change "in the general atmosphere" in the region at this time, Israel will happily welcome it. "We will not hesitate to put forward political initiatives time and again," he said.

Reiterating his call to King Hussein of Jordan to enter into talks with Israel "without preconditions," he promised that any proposals put forward in such negotiations "in conditions of equality and mutual respect" would be considered "seriously" by Israel. Peres added that UN Security Council Resolution 242 should be "a basis" for negotiations, "but not a condition ... there should be no preconditions."

Political observers saw that reference as a bow in the direction of Labor's Likud partners who opposed Resolution 242 when it was formulated in 1967 and only years later accepted it, but strictly in the context of the Camp David accords. The resolution calls for, among other things, "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict."

Urges Palestinians To Accept Autonomy

Peres did not refer directly to the Camp David accords -- as his Likud predecessors always did in the context of peace negotiations. But he urged the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to accept "autonomy for the immediate future."

The Camp David agreements stipulated a five-year period of autonomy after which the final status of those territories would be established. The autonomy negotiations between Israel and Egypt--with the U.S. as mediator -- broke down because of sharp differences between the Likud government and Cairo over the nature and scope of autonomy. Both Jordan and the Palestinians refused to be parties to the negotiations.

Peres referred to Hussein's speech before the Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Amman last week as "very interesting" but noted that the PNC, the so-called Palestinian parliament-in-exile, rejected every one of Hussein's diplomatic options and recommitted the Palestine Liberation Organization to "armed struggle," which means terrorism, Peres said.

He did not comment on Hussein's hard-line speech to the Egyptian Parliament in Cairo yesterday in which the Jordanian ruler denounced Camp David and demanded that Israel give up East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights in return for peace.

Peres called on Egypt to join with Israel in solving the outstanding problems between them and normalize their relations. He noted that President Hosni Mubarak, who was Vice President of Egypt at the time of the Camp David accords, had been "one of the architects of the peace strategy, and I expect him to continue leading it toward a regional dimension."

ECONOMIC CRISIS RAISES CONCERN

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- The government's inability to introduce the drastic spending cuts necessary to alleviate the economic crisis has raised concern among policy-makers over what might occur when the three-month wage-price freeze package expires in January.

The freeze, instituted last month, was seen as a temporary means of curbing inflation while the government utilized the "breathing spell" to hammer out an economic policy of austerity which virtually all economists consider urgent.

But the measures taken to date fall far short of the austerity goals and were agreed to only after bitter wrangling among the various ministries over where the axe would fall. The unity government, indeed, authorized a \$1 billion slash in the State budget when it took office last September. But Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai has argued strenuously since then that an additional \$500 million cut is necessary, at the very least.

Additional \$395 Million Cut Recommended

Last week, an ad hoc committee of four, headed by Modai, recommended an additional \$395 million cut in the national budget. Other members of the committee are Economic Minister Gad Yaacobi and Ministers-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman and Moshe Arens.

But they ran into trouble when they brought their proposals before their colleagues at a stormy five-hour special session of the Cabinet last Friday. The outcome was that the recommended cut was whittled down to \$365 million. The stiffest opposition to the proposed cuts come from the ministries with the largest budgets: Defense, headed by Yitzhak Rabin; Housing, by David Levy; and Education, by Yitzhak Navon.

The failure to introduce the drastic budget cuts most economists consider necessary has raised the spectre of higher taxes. Treasury sources said yesterday that unless the spending cuts are forthcoming, taxes must rise in the next fiscal year even though the highest marginal tax now stands at 65 percent.

Another obstacle to spending cuts is Histadrut's demands that the Treasury honor existing wage agreements and pay workers their increases when due. Modai offered the wage hikes in exchange for an agreement to raise the prices of subsidized products and services, thus reducing the burden on the Treasury. But Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Kesser flatly rejected the deal at a lengthy meeting yesterday at Premier Shimon Peres' residence.

Injecting Money Into The Economy

Meanwhile, the Treasury has been forced to inject huge amounts of money into the economy because it is unable to raise the prices of subsidized items. Last month the Bank of Israel printed 130 billion Shekels. This translated into a daily expenditure by the Treasury of 4.3 billion more Shekels than it took in, the equivalent of \$200 million, which means further deterioration of Israel's already dangerously low foreign currency reserves.

The government faces another challenge on the labor front. The Histadrut teachers union announced today that it would stage a one hour "warning" strike tomorrow in support of its demands for pay increments. Modai, so far, has turned them down.

ISRAEL WOULD WELCOME RETURN TO REGION OF HIGH-LEVEL U.S. EMISSARY TO HELP MOVE THE ISRAELI-LEBANESE NEGOTIATIONS

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Israeli officials indicated they would welcome the return to the region of United States Middle East envoy Richard Murphy -- or a higher level U.S. emissary -- to boost the flagging negotiations between the Israeli and Lebanese military delegations which held another meeting today in Nakura.

While officials here seemed pessimistic as to the prospects of progress in that forum, under the auspices of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the Israeli delegation emerged from today's seventh session since the talks began last month expressing greater satisfaction and said some progress had been made.

Maj. Yona Gazit, the delegation's spokesman, said the Lebanese had abandoned their "declaratory approach" and dealt today with specific issues about which military units should be stationed at which places. Israel in turn, promised to consider the Lebanese proposals and comment on them at the next meeting.

This assessment appeared in contrast with last week's meeting which broke up in an acrimonious exchange between the two sides. Gen. Amos Gilboa, head of the Israeli delegation, said he was "fed up" with the Lebanese's constant reiteration of unacceptable demands. A Lebanese spokesman accused Israel of deliberately wanting the talks to fail in order to remain in control of south Lebanon through surrogates.

The Israeli and Lebanese military teams seek to work out an agreed formula for security arrangements to protect Israeli settlements and once the IDF withdraws from the area, the central issue is the role of UNIFIL.

Lebanon wants the UN force to patrol immediately north of the border while Israel would like this area to be maintained by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), which is not recognized by the government in Beirut. Lebanon wants UNIFIL as the main defense against terrorist infiltration into Israel.

Need 'A Push From The Outside'

Meanwhile, in indicating that they would welcome outside help in the ongoing talks, officials here believe that the negotiations will not make progress without "a push from the outside" -- in this case from the United States.

The officials are wondering whether the ultra-hardline positions adopted by the Lebanese delegation in the previous sessions reflects Syrian input -- or rather a breakdown of communications between Damascus and Beirut.

The latter explanation fits better with the fact that it was Syria which ensured, despite internal Lebanese opposition, primarily from Druze leader Walid Jumblatt and Nabih Berri, the Shiite leader -- both of whom are Cabinet ministers -- that the Nakura talks were launched in the first place.

The Israeli officials noted that Murphy, an Assistant Secretary of State, has not been back to the region since the U.S. Presidential elections early last month, though it had been thought that he would provide a parallel "backchannel" diplomatic dialogue between Jerusalem, Beirut and Damascus while the formal military talks in Nakura continued.

The United States has repeatedly said it has no intention of assuming a mediator's role as long as the positions of the principal parties -- Israel, Lebanon

and Syria -- remain far apart. Officials here who suggested a high level figure other than Murphy, appear to refer to Secretary of State George Shultz, although a return visit by him to the region after his efforts on behalf of the May 17, 1983 Israel-Lebanon agreement seem unlikely. Beirut abrogated that agreement, bowing to Syrian pressure.

MASSIVE SEARCH FOR YOUNG WOMAN SOLDIER LAST SEEN HITCHHIKING NEAR HAIFA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- A massive search for a young woman soldier was extended from the Haifa Bay area to all of northern Israel today, so far without finding a trace of 20-year-old Hadass Kedmi of Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk who has been missing since last Thursday.

The kibbutz, located on Haifa Bay, has offered a 1 million Shekel (\$2,000) reward for any information as to her whereabouts. Kibbutz members and local Arab villagers have volunteered to beef-up police and military search parties. The authorities fear she may have been the victim of terrorists.

Kedmi and another young woman soldier were hitchhiking from their army base near Tel Aviv to their homes in the Haifa area Thursday. Kedmi was last seen when she left the car at the outskirts of Haifa to pick up another ride in the direction of Kfar Masaryk. A male soldier disappeared last month while hitchhiking in the same general area and a number of civilian youths also have been reported missing in the vicinity in recent months.

Police said yesterday that they did not rule out the coincidence between last Thursday's date -- November 29 -- and the possibility that Kedmi was kidnapped by terrorists. November 29 was the 37th anniversary of the United Nations decision to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. It has always been marked by protests, frequently violent, on the part of Palestinian Arabs and a rising incidence of terrorist activity.

The army has repeatedly warned women soldiers not to hitchhike in civilian cars after dark. But recent orders requiring all service personnel to work an extra hour at military camps and bases, an economy measure, has made it difficult for women soldiers to avoid seeking rides after dark. The army now plans to issue women soldiers with small tear gas canisters as a weapon to fight off assault.

SOLIDARITY FAST WITH SOVIET JEWRY

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- The Jewish community here is dramatizing its protest against the cruel treatment of Soviet Jews by a massive rotating fast undertaken by more than 1,000 students in the Montreal Jewish day school system and over a dozen synagogues.

The fast, which began on November 26 and will end on the eve of Chanukah, December 18, links Jews here with a like demonstration of protest in the Soviet Union where over 200 Jews are participating in an ongoing rotating fast.

The demonstration was triggered by the recent sentencing of four Soviet Jews to hard labor for teaching Hebrew. Another six are awaiting trial on the same charge. Hebrew is the only language which may not be taught in the USSR.

Each day school and synagogue here has taken specific days to fast. Synagogue members meeting for morning services will fast until evening services, according to Rabbi Ron Aigen, president of the Board of Jewish Ministers of Greater Montreal. The protest fast will culminate in a candle-lighting ceremony in front of the Soviet Consulate on December 18.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES REFUSING TO FORGET THE PAST

By Aviva Cantor

(Part Five Of A Five-Part Series)

VIENNA, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Leon Zelman, the executive director of the Jewish Welcome Service of the City of Vienna, is an enthusiast. It is doubtful whether anyone else here could have come up and followed through with such an innovative idea as holding a multi-media series on the culture of European Jewry in Vienna, which was once a major spawning ground for the virulent anti-Semitism that destroyed that culture. The "Vanished World" series has been a success, drawing even greater audiences than Zelman had expected.

"Something has changed in Austria," Zelman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The younger generation "wants to know" about Jews. Three years ago, the Jewish Welcome Service began a program in the schools and on television about Jewish writers. Starting with seven school lecturers, it now has 100.

"When the young people started to learn about Jewish culture, they wanted to learn about Jews," he said. "They made associations -- they asked why Freud left Vienna. Many young people hadn't known that he was Jewish." Now, he said, "the children are pressing the teachers" to learn more, and are questioning their parents and grandparents about the Nazi era. "We opened a door and the young people pushed through it," he said.

Issue of Anti-Semitism

Zelman believes young Austrians are cultured, open-minded and liberal -- and feel anti-Semitism is none of these things. (A recently-published university survey does, indeed, show that the rates of anti-Semitism are lowest among the youth. See December 3 Bulletin.)

Other Jews feel that anti-Semitism has simply become latent rather than overt. Jewish cabaret artist Gerhard Bronner said, "I'm quite content when they say (anti-Semitic remarks) behind my back. When they don't say it to my face -- that's progress." And Holocaust researcher Dr. Jonny Moser observed that the difference between the pre-war and post-war periods is that today a Hasid can "walk down the street in full regalia and nobody will harass him as a Jew."

Moser noted that while there is growing anti-Semitism in extremist groups on the right and left, there is no anti-Semitic party in Austria. Neo-Nazism is outlawed. It was during the regime of then-Chancellor Bruno Kreisky that a law was passed making it a crime to malign a religious or ethnic group.

Effort To Educate The Citizenry

The government and various institutions make an effort to educate the citizenry, particularly the youth, about Nazism. The Archive of the Austrian Resistance Movement has a collection of 17,000 documents, publishes books, and maintains a permanent exhibit regarding the Nazi era, exiled Austrians, and neo-Nazism. It has 10,000 visitors a year, many of them students, according to Dr. Siegwald Ganglmair, an Archive official. "Children ask a lot about the climate of terror," he said.

The Ministry of Interior maintains the museum and memorials at the Mauthausen concentration camp. An estimated 206,000 individuals were imprisoned there between 1938 and 1945 and over 110,000 perished. Only three of the original group of 2,600

Jews deported there survived; additional thousands of Jews sent there in 1945 from Hungary and elsewhere also perished. The gas chamber and crematoria are in the basement of what is now the museum. The exhibit provides a detailed history of Nazism and the camp.

Over 350,000 pupils have visited Mauthausen, said Zelman, including a group of 300 blind children. The idea for the school visits came from the Ministry of Education and Teachers Association, not the Jewish community, he said. Last year's group of new army draftees took their oath at Mauthausen.

Schoolchildren also regularly visit the Austrian Jewish Museum in Eisenstadt, capital of Burgenland, a wine-growing and resort area about an hour from Vienna and close to the Hungarian border. The museum is housed in a mansion built by Samson Wertheimer, a court Jew and the chief rabbi of Hungary, at the end of the 17th century.

The Austrian Jewish Museum

The museum has on display rooms of documents, portraits, maps and various artifacts. Part of the museum is a small chapel which was Wertheimer's private shul. During the war years, the Torahs were hidden behind the wooden lattice mechitza (partition between the sexes during worship) and thus saved.

Prof. Kurt Shubert, head of the University of Vienna's Institute of Jewish Studies, was the curator for the museum. In addition to the displays on Jewish history, there is an exhibit on the Anschluss (Germany's take-over of Austria in 1938) and another on Zionist history entitled "Alt-Neuland" (Old-New Land), after Theodor Herzl's utopian book of the same name.

Shubert said that he had learned Hebrew in 1941 "as a protest. When I saw Jews forced to scrub the streets on their knees, I felt I wanted to do something in solidarity." But Shubert did more "in solidarity" with Jews than learn Hebrew. As an air-raid warden in Vienna during the war, he managed to save the entire library of the Jewish Rabbinical Seminary in Tempelgasse -- 20,000 volumes. He had the books brought to the safe refuge of the University's Institute for Oriental Studies.

Prof. Jacob Allerhand of the University's Institute of Jewish Studies told JTA there are 200 students taking classes there in modern Jewish history, Hebrew literature, and elementary and advanced Yiddish. In addition to the masters and doctoral candidates, there are many students who take the courses because they are interested in learning about Jewish life. Most of the Yiddish students are teachers of German.

'Want To Know About Jewishness'

One student told Allerhand that "when I read Mendele (Mocher Sforim, the 19th century Yiddish and Hebrew author) "It touches my heart." Another read I. L. Peretz's "Sh'lom Bayis" (Domestic Tranquility) to her anti-Semitic father. And, he continued, a third student told him, "We grew up in a school where we had no Jewish friends. Now that it's impossible to know Jews, we want to know about Jewishness." Allerhand concluded: "It's a new generation. They want to know about Jewishness."

The commitment of the Austrian government to helping this process along may be seen in the fact that high officials attended various opening ceremonies of the "Vanished World" series of events. It may also be seen in the fact that Austrian President Dr. Rudolf Kirchschlager spoke at the official dedication of the Zvi Perez Chajes School. He said: "We have to think about the past as well as the future. In 1941, the last children were deported from Vienna. The opening of this school is a victory against the destruction of the community."

RABBIS AMONG WARRIORS

By Albert W. Bloom
(Second in a Special Series for JTA)

SOBERNHEIM, West Germany (JTA)—Imagine, "A whole minyan of rabbis at a religious service in Germany!"

The minyan, here at a conference of military chaplains, was "first" of its kind, according to Rabbi David Lapp, retired army colonel-chaplain and director of JWB's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, the endorsing agency of all Jewish military chaplains for the U.S. Department of Defense.

We had come to do another "first," the first reportorial depth-probe of the post-World War II Jewish chaplaincy in NATO-Europe and the "Jewish dimension" in the "new" U.S. volunteer army, navy and air force overseas.

It is a different "congregation" from any the American Jewish community in civilian life knows, sees or probably even thinks about—with the exception of JWB-CJC, which is charged with the responsibility for endorsing rabbis who seek commissions in the U.S. military chaplaincy and which is involved and concerned with the U.S. Jewish military community worldwide.

JWB shoulders a far-flung job across the globe, hardly known to the American Jewish community on whose behalf it works on a 24-hour-a-day clock.

Chaplains' Retreat a Jewish Statement in Germany

This Sobernheim Jewish chaplains' retreat in the outskirts of a quaint German village, by its very nature, made a Jewish statement in Germany.

Prof. A. Stanley Dreyfus, a World War II chaplain-rabbi himself in Germany and presently director of placement of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), was the ranking scholar-in-residence for retreat.

The village of Sobernheim has a plaque on an old building that in pre-Nazi Germany was the local synagogue. Now the entire shul is in danger of being sold for commercial use. The village is 75 miles southwest of Frankfurt, thriving banking and commercial center of West Germany. Even now the synagogue is being used as a warehouse. At one edge of Sobernheim is the Frankfurt community's "Rheea Zentrum," a rehabilitation center run by Frankfurt "Gemeinde" (Jewish community organization) as a camplike retreat with comfortable accommodations for camping youngsters, elders or quiet-seeking scholars and students.

This time, eight active-duty military chaplains met with JWB-CJC Director Lapp and Prof. Dreyfus, rabbi-scholar-teacher-chaplain. (During World War II, Chaplain Dreyfus had lived with a German family whose mother had been killed by the Nazis during a forced march. The Nazis executed her by injecting air into her veins by syringe.)

Reform Machzor Refers to Jews . . . as the Dew

Prof. Dreyfus noted that the "Gates of Forgiveness," the new Reform Machzor for the High Holy Days, has a preface that reads:

*"We Jews are as the dew,
on every blade of grass,
trodden underfoot today,
are here tomorrow morning."*

Each year JWB-CJC rotates invitee-scholars—Orthodox, Conservative, Reform—to meet with chaplains on duty in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces (NATO) in Europe. "Rabbis Among Warriors" are assigned a week-long scholarly retreat for Jewish study, away from the daily drumbeat of military life.

"No one in the civilian rabbinate or in civilian life in America can appreciate what this means to us," remarked Chaplain Kenneth J. Leinwand, whose headquarters is in Stuttgart, an industrial center with a big U.S. military complex on its outskirts.

"In America, one's rabbinical colleagues and many congregations are nearby and talk to exchange ideas and experiences daily. Not so with us chaplains. We rarely get to see our colleagues for any interchange; our 'congregations' are widely spread out; and the varied military administrative load is often all absorbing."

Jewish Chaplains' Unique Problems Outlined

Rabbi Lapp noted, "There are unique problems for the Jewish chaplain." They include:

"1. We are all far from home.

"2. We all experience the culture-shock to the American soldier, sailor, airman-woman overseas, often far away from a Jewish institution of any kind.

"3. We are few in number, ministering to our fellow Jews, who are few in number.

"4. We must cover a vast area.

"5. We must deal with a wide variety of Jewish backgrounds among our congregants, and still try to weld them together into a military community in which we all care for one another."

To meet these Jewish needs, JWB provides guidance to military chaplains in the form of literature, visitations and counseling. JWB also assembles and ships packages of kosher foods from matzoh balls to gefilte fish and sacramental wine for kiddush, as well as other kosher foods requested by the military. JWB also sends congregational and religious books, supplies and accoutrements. For JWB, all this is an on-going logistical challenge.

In order to help solve the religious human-power problem, chaplains are authorized to appoint "lay leaders," certified by JWB usually from the military community, who can direct religious services and meet educational needs in the absence of the chaplain.

But in all matters religious, regardless of rank, the chaplain is the religious authority. This avoids many a sticky situation in an encapsulated, though often far-flung, Jewish institutional society.

Every chaplain is by military definition a chaplain for all faiths within his area. He is responsible for finding ways to provide suitable methods to meet the varying religious needs of all military folk.

For instance, a non-Jewish chaplain far from a city may one day have to put through a hurried call to a Jewish chaplain when a Jewish family stationed at a remote overseas base become parents of a baby boy—and a "mohel" is needed.

Ritual Circumcision Is Typical of Religious Problems

The Jewish chaplain is thus faced with a key religious problem. It has to be solved within days. Both his knowledge and his energy are in demand. There are many such examples. (Often, an available Jewish military physician-pediatrician with surgical training is called upon to act as "mohel" for ritual circumcision. The chaplain-rabbi is, of course, in attendance.)

Col. Richard K. Martin, senior U.S. army chaplain in Europe, of Lynchburg, Va., a Protestant military clergyman, remarked to us that the chaplain is the "spiritual leader for soldiers and for their families in the new overseas."

Besides, he said, each chaplain needs a pastor for himself, hence the idea of human collegial contact arises similarly to the "havrusa" (friend and study companion) in the yeshiva. As for the Jewish community back home, Chaplain Martin said sagely:

"The people of God need to know what Jewish chaplains are doing."

At Sobernheim, they were studying texts of ancient-yesterday with Prof. Dreyfus, who directed their attention to the Kinot (Elegies) for Tisha B'Av, the Ninth of Av, the time of the destruction of the Holy Temples in Jerusalem, with various other historical references to Jewish suffering—and creative survival.

Not surprisingly, Prof. Dreyfus pointed to a reference about pogroms of Mainz (Mayence), Speyer and Worms in Germany and the depredations of the bloody Crusaders, plundering and killing (circa 1096) and thereafter. It happened almost next door, geographically speaking.

The Kinot-Elegies of Tisha B'Av will always come more alive for me in the future and chaplain-rabbis attending and the congregations to whom they returned.

Frankfurt-am-Main's Righteous Gentiles

Some of the "righteous Gentiles" in 1616 helped the Jews escape Frankfurt to the nearby medieval town of Hoechst, today, "10 minutes away by train to the Middle Ages." So Hoechst is, still, "one of the jewels in Frankfurt's crown," a lovely town "of medieval peace and quiet" where Jews were once sheltered and protected.

The military chaplains walked the quaint, charming—and agonized—street of the refuge of Hoechst.

None of these JWB-endorsed chaplains will ever be at a loss sermonic material amid Jewish history, ancient and, at once, modern.

Next: Helicopter over Heidelberg