

**ISRAELI OFFICIALS OUTRAGED OVER JOINT MUBARAK-HUSSEIN COMMUNIQUE ENDORSING A ROLE FOR THE PLO**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 4 (JTA) -- Israeli officials expressed outrage and disappointment over the joint communique issued by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan in Cairo and Amman yesterday endorsing the Palestine Liberation Organization as a full partner in negotiations to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict that would require Israel to relinquish all territories it captured in 1967 -- including East Jerusalem -- in exchange for peace.

The formula was the one presented by Hussein when he addressed the Egyptian Parliament Sunday and officials here were saying privately today that Mubarak's apparent acceptance of it was tantamount to a repudiation by Egypt of the Camp David accords.

Those comments were unofficial. Israel's formal response to the Mubarak-Hussein communique is expected later today from Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir when he winds up the Knesset foreign policy debate begun by Premier Shimon Peres yesterday.

Shamir has taken a consistently tougher line than Peres toward Jordan and Egypt. Sources here said however that his official reaction would take account of the mitigating statements made in Cairo by Premier Kamal Hassan Ali to the effect that Egypt continues to adhere to the Camp David accords, as it interprets them. The Israeli and Egyptian interpretations, always at variance, seem to have moved further apart in recent months.

**Retreat From Camp David Accords Seen**

According to analysts here, the Mubarak-Hussein communique marks an Egyptian retreat from Camp David as the sole path to peace in the Middle East and a willingness to consider other, more radical diplomatic approaches.

The Israeli analysts were disturbed most by the communique's support for the "inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination in the form they see fit" and its reiteration of the Arab League pronouncement, at its Rabat summit meeting in 1974, that the PLO is "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

**Elements In The Joint Communique**

In their joint communique, Egypt and Jordan agreed that a "suitable basis" for a peace settlement with Israel was the principles embodied in United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 of November 22, 1967. The resolution called for, among other things, "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict."

Egypt and Jordan also agreed on the importance of convening an international peace conference under UN auspices with the two superpowers, U.S. and USSR, in attendance along with other permanent members of the Security Council, and the PLO as an equal partner in the negotiations.

This was specifically called for by Hussein in his Cairo speech Sunday during which the Jordanian ruler fiercely denounced the Camp David process on grounds that it failed to deal with Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and East Jerusalem. According to foreign press reports, the vehemence of Hussein's attack on Camp David stunned the members of the Egyptian Parliament.

**Views Of Egyptian-Jordanian Rapprochement**

Hussein's speech was followed by three days of talks with Mubarak. It was their first summit meeting since Jordan resumed diplomatic relations with Cairo on September 25 which it broke in 1979 when Egypt signed its peace treaty with Israel.

The rapprochement between Egypt and Jordan was viewed as a positive development in Western circles which saw the coming together of two moderate Arab states as an enhancement of peace prospects in the Middle East. President Reagan expressed such a view only last week, according to a transcript of his interview with The Washington Times, released by the White House.

Israel, too, regarded the resumed ties between Cairo and Amman with cautious optimism. Premier Shimon Peres, more so than his Likud predecessors, has been urging Hussein to enter into talks with Israel with no preconditions.

In his address to the Knesset yesterday, before the joint communique, he promised that any proposals Jordan might put forward in the course of such negotiations "in conditions of equality and mutual respect" would be "seriously" considered by Israel.

Israel, while it accepted Resolution 242 and acknowledged it as the basis of the 1978 Camp David agreements, steadfastly maintains that the Camp David formula is the only viable framework for a Middle East peace settlement.

Israel has flatly rejected an international conference which would inject the Soviet Union directly into the peace process and has made clear that it will, under no circumstances, deal with the PLO which it regards as a terrorist organization.

**UAHC LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE EFFORT TO AID STARVATION VICTIMS IN ETHIOPIA**

MIAMI BEACH, Dec. 4 (JTA) -- The leaders of American Reform Judaism have launched a nationwide appeal to provide emergency shelter and medical care for victims of starvation in Ethiopia.

While no campaign goal has been set, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), told the UAHC's policy-making Board of Trustees meeting here that the UAHC hoped to raise an initial sum of \$250,000, which he said was enough to construct and supply a village of 600 tents sheltering 6,000 refugees.

He cited reports that tens of thousands of Ethiopians have uprooted themselves from their homes in search of sustenance, making the need for shelter "almost as desperate as the need for food."

Schindler said the proceeds of the campaign would help build and supply a series of tent cities in Ethiopia being coordinated by a private Israeli citizen, Abie Nathan. Individual Israelis have raised \$100,000 for a tent city project so far, and some 60 Israeli physicians

have volunteered to provide medical services to the refugees, Schindler said. Charles Rothschild of Teaneck, N.J., UAHC Board chairman, said funds would be sought from members of Reform synagogues and also from other members of the Jewish community "to add a Jewish dimension to the task of helping to save hundreds of thousands of lives. This is a Jewish effort, in America and in Israel, to confront a human crisis," he said.

The UAHC will also prepare a register of volunteer physicians, nurses and other medical personnel from among its Reform synagogues members available to serve in Ethiopia, he said.

Two physicians active in the Reform movement in Seattle -- Dr. Joseph Schuster and Dr. Jonathan Ostrow -- returned to the U.S. last week after spending one month in Jewish villages in Ethiopia under the UAHC's Project REAP (Relief for Ethiopia Aid Project). (See separate story, P. 3.)

The program was undertaken earlier this year to provide emergency assistance for Ethiopian Jews. The program announced at the UAHC's Board meeting was designed to help all victims of the famine in Ethiopia, not only the Jews, Rothschild emphasized.

Schindler said that Nathan has chartered a cargo plane to fly to Ethiopia with the first shipment of tents and medical supplies later this month. The plane is expected to arrive on or about the first day of Chanukah, on which Jews traditionally exchange gifts. "Our gift will be the most precious of all-- the gift of life," Schindler told the UAHC trustees.

#### RECORD HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 4 (JTA) -- Unemployment in Israel has reached a record high of nearly 100,000 jobless, about six percent of the work force, according to figures released today. It is the highest rise since the economic slump of the mid-1960's, just before the Six-Day War.

Baruch Haklai, Director General of the Employment Service, said the problem was especially acute in the development towns where the jobless rate is triple the average for the country as a whole.

Yisrael Kesser, Secretary General of Histadrut, blamed the previous Likud-led government for neglecting development towns in order to invest large sums in settlements in the administered territories. "The government does not realize what a time bomb we have in the development towns," he said.

Prof. Ephraim Kleimann, a Hebrew University economist, said fighting inflation by unemployment was "the easy way out." He warned that large-scale joblessness would encourage emigration which is contrary to the very reason the State of Israel was founded for.

Kleimann said he was concerned that the economic slowdown will damage the industrial sector of the economy rather than reduce the large workforce in the service area. He proposed shrinking the civil service while easing the tax burden on employers so there will be no need to fire workers.

Commenting on the unemployment figures in a radio interview today, Minister of Labor and Welfare Moshe Katzav said massive unemployment was contrary to the government's policy. His ministry predicts that while the jobless figure will rise gradually in the immediate future, it will taper off by the end of next year when the economy, hopefully, resumes its growth.

#### U.S. SAYS DIRECT ISRAELI-ARAB TALKS ARE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE MIDEAST PEACE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration maintained today that the best way to achieve peace in the Middle East was through direct talks between Israel and the Arabs rather than the international conference called for in a joint communique by King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

"We don't believe that such an international conference will lead to productive results," State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said. He said the U.S. feels that the "most practical course is direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties concerned as envisioned by the Camp David process."

The joint communique, issued simultaneously in Cairo and Amman yesterday after three days of talks between Hussein and Mubarak in Cairo, called for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, attended by "all parties concerned, including the PLO."

#### Murphy Returning To The Mideast

Presumably, Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, will discuss this development when he goes to the Middle East later this week. Hussein, in a speech to the Egyptian Parliament Sunday, denounced the Camp David agreements while Mubarak, in his reply, made no mention of them. The State Department said yesterday that in its view this meant that Egypt is "fully supportive of the Camp David process."

As is customary, largely for security reasons, Romberg would not give Murphy's itinerary. He also would not outline the issues Murphy plans to discuss, except that of south Lebanon.

However, Romberg stressed that while the U.S. wants to "be helpful where we can" in the current Israeli-Lebanese negotiations for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon, the U.S. is not a participant in the negotiations and is not acting as a mediator. Romberg denied reports that Murphy is taking on some of the role of a special Mideast negotiator and will be more actively involved in the negotiations than he was on his recent four-week "fact-finding" trip to the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State George Shultz and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir are scheduled to meet in New York next Sunday night for bilateral discussions, after both receive honorary degrees from Yeshiva University.

#### SEARCH INTENSIFIED FOR MISSING SOLDIER

TEL AVIV, Dec. 4 (JTA) -- More than 4,000 soldiers, border and regular police continued to comb northern Israel today for a trace of a missing young woman soldier, Hadass Kedmi, 20, last seen on November 29 hitchhiking to her home at Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk in the Haifa Bay area.

The official search parties were joined by civilian volunteers -- Jews, Arabs and Druze -- but so far the search, which began Sunday, has yielded no clues. The missing woman, and another woman soldier, were hitchhiking together from their army base near Tel Aviv to their homes in the Haifa area.

Kedmi left the car at the outskirts of Haifa to find a ride in the direction of Kfar Masaryk and disappeared. Police fear she may have been a victim of terrorists.

They have renewed, though on a smaller scale, the search for a 21-year-old male soldier, David Manos, who vanished in the same area last November 7. The police believe that both of these disappearances, and the disappearances of several young civilians in recent months, may be linked to terrorist activity.

The search for Manos was delayed last month because his unit listed him as absent-without-leave and did not inform the police until his parents in Petach Tikva contacted his commanding officer to find out why he never came home.

#### SPECIAL INTERVIEW TWO SEATTLE DOCTORS RETURN FROM GONDAR AND SAY MEDICAL CARE IN RURAL AREAS IS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (JTA) — Two Seattle physicians, who have just returned from the Gondar region of Ethiopia, where they treated Jews and Christians in the mainly Falasha villages there, found that medical care is almost non-existent in the province's rural area.

Drs. Joseph Schuster and Jonathan Ostrow, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said that starvation was not a problem in Gondar since the province was the wheat-growing area for the country, although a 30 to 35 percent drop in the crop this year could result in famine next spring unless there is an improvement in the wheat production.

"The issue here (in Gondar) is not starvation, it is just very primitive medical care in communities that have lost most of their healthy young men," Ostrow said. He added that this was "more of a problem in the Jewish villages" since those young men who had not been drafted had fled the country, mainly to Israel.

Schuster said that all the Ethiopian Jews they met would like to go to Israel where one-third of the Falasha community now lives. He noted that the Ethiopian government, which maintains that it permits freedom of religion, has banned the teaching or use of Hebrew which it claims is being taught for "exodus to Israel."

The two doctors, who had never been to Ethiopia before, went there under the auspices of the Surgical Aid for Children of the World (SACOW), a private New York-based medical relief agency. The trip was paid for by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), the association of Reform congregations. They said they were the first American doctors allowed in Gondar since Americans were expelled from Ethiopia by the new Marxist government 10 years ago.

#### Nature Of Medical Facilities

The only hospital in Gondar is in the provincial capital, Gondar City, and is staffed by four Ethiopian doctors and about a dozen East German physicians, Schuster said. He stated that most of the Jewish villages are in a 40 to 50 mile radius around Gondar City. They were only able to get to the villages some 12 to 15 miles out. Some of distant villages in the Siman mountains near Tigray province, where a war of secession against Ethiopia is going on, have not been heard from in years.

There are 15 rural clinics in the province, including one at Ambober, which was an ORT facility until ORT was expelled in 1981, and three larger medical centers all of which are supposed to provide primary medical aid in the rural areas. But none have

medical doctors and basically give nothing more than first aid, Schuster said. In addition, he pointed out the villagers who are mostly farmers cannot afford to pay for treatment, since charges run from 25 cents to \$1.50 and they earn less than \$50 a year. While free medical aid is available for the indigent, these farmers are not considered indigent since they own cows.

Ostrow said that in visiting the villages, they found that the people live in grass huts, sleep on the floors and go barefoot. There is no sanitation and the drinking water is from a river that is contaminated.

#### Large-Scale Illness

Schuster said when they came into a village, they sat on a rock outside and the residents came to them "in droves." They found 40 percent had eye infections with three to five percent either blind or going blind.

There were a large number of ear infections. All the women had goiters. People suffered from leprosy, polio and tuberculosis. Virtually everyone had an open infested sore in which flies congregated and as soon as any one was scratched flies immediately covered it.

The two doctors in their visits to the villages, which were all Jewish or mainly Jewish, were able to treat everyone there. They hoped that SACOW will be allowed to establish a permanent American presence in Gondar which they also hope will be an American Jewish presence.

Their plans call for having a physician in Gondar at the hospital for six months at a time, with other physicians volunteering their services on a monthly basis. They would also like to have a vehicle to serve as a mobile medical unit to visit the various villages.

For their recent visit, the Canadian African Aid Society provided 1,500 pounds of medical supplies and medicine and a Canadian pharmaceutical firm has promised to donate medical supplies if SACOW is able to establish a permanent presence. But the doctors said they would have to raise funds to provide the expensive cost of flying American doctors to and from Ethiopia and to buy and maintain the medical vehicle.

The visit by the two doctors was timed to coincide with the Ethiopian Jewish ancient celebration of Seggid, a day of fasting and of prayer, followed by rejoicing. They were joined by about 40 American and Canadian and Israeli Jews who were visiting the area at the same time.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) — Key members of Peace Now are seeking to form a new political party which would embrace their movement and include Mapam and the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM), leftist opposition factions with a combined total of seven seats in the Knesset. The three groups have already formed a joint committee which plans to hold a forum next month that could lead to the creation of a new party.

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NEW YORK (JTA) — Only 55 Jews were granted exit visas from the Soviet Union during November, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported. Included in the figure, a slight increase from the October low of 29, are 12 Muscovite Jews, marking the first time in over seven months that Jews from the Soviet capital were permitted to emigrate. Only 805 Jews have emigrated since January 1984, indicating an annual figure of less than 1,000.

## RABBIS AMONG WARRIORS

By Albert W. Bloom

(Third in an Eight-Part Series)

HEIDELBERG, West Germany, Dec. 4 (JTA)—There is a little-known item of history linked to this town, scene of the romantic operetta "The Student Prince." This is the station for the U.S. Army's senior Jewish chaplain in Europe, Lt. Col. Philip Silverstein.

During Hitler's regime, the Protestant Bishop Germann Maas defied the Nazis by speaking in defense of the Jews, and the people here helped their Jewish brethren as best they could.

Today, a few of the Germans and the Americans now stationed here paradoxically defending a onetime enemy, recognize the historic irony being played out on Heidelberg's fabled streets.

That tableau is unusual, but so are many things about the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mission and the American "Rabbin in Uniform," the chaplains who bring *Yahadut* (Jewishness and Jewish spirit re-born) in Europe as they minister to U.S. Army, Air Force, and Navy men and women of all faiths, far from Main Street America.

## JWB-CJC Is One of Three Endorsing Agencies

JWB is one of three "endorsing agencies" recognized by the Department of Defense in molding its chaplains corps for U.S. armed forces at home and abroad. JWB's CJC represents the American Jewish community with honor and distinction in faraway places where Jewish roots are often thin and bruised by history. In modern and medieval times, Germany is such a place.

The presence of the Jewish chaplain underscores for all American Jews the equality of faiths in America—Protestant, Catholic and Jewish. It demands unusual men in uniform to fill the assignment in this unusual American "discipline."

Chaplain Silverstein is one such unusual man. Recently arrived here from Korea, he played a key leadership role in building what reputedly is the first U.S. synagogue in that far-off oriental place.

Adinah, his wife, is a Korean convert to Judaism. Like many other chaplains' wives, she helps to run the many programs here in Heidelberg which flow from his desk as they do from every chaplain's office wherever U.S. troops are stationed. In postwar Germany today, these programs have special implications.

Meira, their five-and-a-half-year-old daughter, will probably be attending a French school across the border as part of her already multi-cultural, broad-scale education.

Heidelberg is the headquarters, U.S. Army Europe (USAEUR) and the U.S. Seventh Army. Germany today is the geographical linchpin in Free Europe. NATO forces in Europe are garrisoned in strength here, the main roadblock to any possible Soviet attempt to subjugate the 250 million people of Free Europe. In all this, American society, and its Jewish component as well, have special visibility. The U.S. is seen as the land of equality, strength, success and freedom, by most Europeans, and especially in now-democratic West Germany.

## American Chaplains Seen in Special Role

American chaplains—Protestant, Catholic, Jewish—have a special role here. Europe is a religion-centered (if not religious) society in both governmental and social attitudes.

In Europe, government funds religion with taxes. It follows that religious leaders have special visibility. For Americans here, their chaplains have such a visible posture in the surrounding society, taken for granted in a place like West Germany.

While serving the American soldier, sailor, airman and airwoman and their families as well as thousands of U.S. civilians who are part of the military services, the chaplains of all faiths are noteworthy. For the Jewish community, American or German, there is a posture of importance over here.

Chaplain Silverstein analyzes it this way:

"Even if there were not one Jewish soldier, we would still need the 24 Jewish chaplains in the Army to explain what American means. Because nobody can believe it. In America, there is not religious 'sufferance,' there is religious equality. You don't really have it over here."

## Chopper Whisks Us to Meet Missile Commander

By helicopter—a UH1H "chopper"—we skimmed the treetops to fly from Heidelberg to Kreuzberg to meet Brig Gen. Walter Kastenmeyer, a tall, lean, gray-haired officer with blue shell rim glasses and acute intelligence. The general was dressed in an Army

camouflage uniform. He is commander of the 200th TAMMC (Theater Army Material Management Center). Nowadays, missile systems are the specialty of TAMMC.

But the forward march of chaplaincy services are close to his mind and heart.

He has called for broader and wider support for chaplaincy services of all kinds.

"We need to be nudged," he said, in urging more services and concern for the individual soldiers, male or female, far from their American homes.

## NATO Governed by "Status of Forces" Pacts

In Europe, the military is often organized into large "communities," alongside its military missions. These virtually self-contained communities are provided with living services (housing, supply, base exchanges, human services, etc.) in an environment sometimes far, sometimes near (but never integrated) to the local "economy." Local-guest relationships in NATO are regulated by detailed "status of forces" agreements within each country.

Within this transplanted American military society, Jewish servicemen-women seek their places with other religious groups. In this, the chaplain is both catalyst and prime mover.

Lt. Col. Peter (Pete) Gleichenhaus, 45, executive officer of the deputy-commander-in-chief of the U.S. Army Europe, earlier in Heidelberg, had emphasized the need for whole networks of Jewish "lay leaders." These lay leaders selected by the chaplains who are so few in number, bring the continuum of Jewish religious culture to the far-flung and lonely areas.

"If, in fact it is important for Jews in the armed forces to retain their Jewishness and also just as important for concerned Jews in civilian life to retain our Jewishness, then we must find wider and better ways to support those wearing the U.S. uniform.

"Not enough is being done," Col. Gleichenhaus insisted, "for the soldier, his family and his children in terms of continual Jewish nourishment by religious, cultural and educational services.

"The soldier in Fulda cannot go to a synagogue. Somehow a synagogue has to be brought to him, his family and the other men and families nearby."

## No Chaplain Can Reach Every Jew

With his array of duties and the vast distances separating him from his "congregation," no chaplain on his own can cover every Jewish person or family.

That is why the "lay leader," appointed by and responsible to the chaplain (an important chain-of-responsibility relationship) is a program that needs to be pushed harder and harder. There is no other way to "cover" the scattered, Jewish military "Diaspora." Chaplains of other faiths, with their "flock" more concentrated, do not face the same challenge the Jewish chaplains do.

Paul Ellenbogen, a civilian lay leader whose official job is chief court reporter at Headquarters, USAEUR, focused on a key issue: "Jewish identity is the real problem over here, preserving it and strengthening it."

Lt. Col. William L. Brigadier (his name, not his rank), whose specialty is keeping the latest modern missiles at-the-ready, is an "army brat" who grew up to be an officer with key responsibilities and Jewish "lay leader" at a Kreuzberg "kaserne" (military community). He is sensitive to the varying needs in, and out, of the field. Jewish chaplains are spread thin, a "congregation" may be strung out over 300 military stations.

"This is a new army with new kinds of people," he said—including chaplains. He is disturbed that some gentle chaplains, fine fellows in every other respect, just do not, or cannot, deliver "non-denominational prayers" at public military meetings where all faiths are gathered.

## "Non-Denominational" Sensitivity Often Overlooked

This "non-denominational" program is recognized and respected in most instances of civilian, interfaith public meetings. Apparently, this sensitivity is often overlooked in the military, where chaplains of all kinds of educational background are found.

Perhaps the Chaplains School at Fort Monmouth, N.J., is the place to impart guidance for such interfaith delicacy. When that happens, a combat officer of sensitivity, Brigadier by name, will deserve the real credit.

For the young Jew overseas in uniform or in civilian-military connection, the Jewish chaplain and the support network of JWB-CJC is a spiritual safety net set before him.

Next: Chaplains and Surgeons