

**PERES ON A THREE-DAY VISIT TO FRANCE, THE FIRST BY AN ISRAELI PREMIER SINCE DAVID BEN GURION**  
By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 5 (JTA) — Israeli Premier Shimon Peres was given a standing ovation today by French Senators and Deputies in the National Assembly, after he arrived earlier in the day for a three-day visit. This is the first time an Israeli Premier has visited France since David Ben Gurion.

Assembly Speaker Louis Mermaz and the president of the Franco-Israeli Parliamentary Friendship Group, Jean Poperen, both stressed that the welcome given to Peres symbolized France's warm feelings for Israel.

Peres landed shortly before noon at Orly Airport where a company of Presidential guards presented arms. A military band played Israel's national anthem, Hatikvah, and France's Premier Laurent Fabius personally welcomed the visitor.

Escorted by a fleet of motorcycle police, Peres was driven to France's official residence, Hotel Marigny, a former Rothschild palace, usually reserved for visiting heads of state. This evening he will discuss Franco-Israeli bilateral relations with Fabius and the possible repercussions of Spain and Portugal entering the European Economic Community (EEC). Later in the evening, Peres will be guest of honor at a State dinner given by Fabius at the Quai D'Orsay.

Tomorrow, Peres and President Francois Mitterrand will confer privately for about an hour, before a formal lunch attended by Fabius and several other ministers. Among the subjects on the agenda are Lebanon, the EEC and especially, the new Israeli government's hope to launch a new peace initiative with Jordan. Peres, diplomatic observers say, will probably ask for Mitterrand's help in getting this process started.

**France's Objective In The Middle East**

Peres is keen to induce King Hussein of Jordan to participate in a new peace process. Mitterrand, who has just had a series of meetings with Hussein, President Hafez Assad of Syria and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in Amman, Damascus and Cairo, is at the moment probably the Western leader with the widest contacts in the Middle East. He has even conferred with Col. Muammar Qaddafi of Libya whom he met in Crete last month.

All of this is in line with France's outspoken desire to play an active role in the Middle East. The French realize that Israel, to a large extent, holds the key to French involvement. Mitterrand's Socialist administration also believes that Israel's new leadership is better able to open a new era of improved relations between the two countries.

Diplomatic sources said today that various plans for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from south Lebanon will be discussed during the Israeli leader's three-day visit.

Peres will want to know to what extent France is prepared to participate in an expanded mission for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) which is expected to assume a greater security role in south Lebanon once Israeli forces pull out, the sources said. Peres is also interested in Mitterrand's first hand impressions of Assad's intentions.

Israel's concerns over the forthcoming membership of Spain and Portugal in the EEC are based on the possible effects this will have on Israel's agricultural exports to the Common Market countries. Franco-Israeli economic ties are also on the agenda. The Israelis hope for special measures that would stimulate French investments in Israel's industries.

**STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT CITES INCREASED LEVELS OF ANTI-SEMITIC RHETORIC IN THE SOVIET UNION**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (JTA) — Soviet propaganda has been depicting Israeli leaders as inheritors of "Hitler's fascist mantle," according to a State Department report released this week.

The report, the 17th annual review of Soviet and East European compliance with the Helsinki Final Act, notes that during the six months being studied, April 1 to October 1, 1984, there has been "increased levels of anti-Semitic rhetoric thinly veiled as 'anti-Zionism.'"

According to the report, "Soviet propaganda maintains that Israeli and Western intelligence encourages emigration in order to obtain state secrets from Soviet citizens. It further alleges that 'Zionists' collaborated with fascists during World War II to send many innocent Jews to their deaths. These Zionist elements, so the argument goes, now comprise the ruling circles of Israel, which has inherited Hitler's fascist mantle. Crude Soviet propaganda posters often depict images of Hitler together with Israeli officials who in turn are often depicted poisoning Arab drinking water."

**Aimed At Frightening Jews**

This crude propaganda appears aimed at frightening Jews from seeking to emigrate. "The rate of emigration from the Soviet Union continued to decline below the disappointing figures of early 1984 and has come to a virtual standstill," the report said.

From April 1 to August 30 only 423 Jews left the USSR. The report noted that some Jews "have reacted with despair and, for the time being, have stopped applying to leave, while others apply as frequently as possible — once every six months."

The State Department presented the semiannual report to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, headed by Rep. Dante Fascell (D. Fla.), which monitors compliance with the Helsinki Act. The Department called the "overall record of compliance" on human rights by the Soviet Union and other East European countries "seriously flawed."

This was especially true of the USSR. "Soviet performance in the field of human rights continued a deplorable decline throughout the six-month review period, despite the renewed commitment to respect the universal significance of human rights and fundamental freedoms undertaken one year ago in the concluding document of the Madrid conference on security and cooperation in Europe," the report declared.

The review noted an intensification of persecution of Jewish cultural activists. "Moscow Hebrew teachers Alexander Kholmiansky and Yuli Edelstein were arrested during the summer, respectively, for hooliganism and possession of drugs," according to the report. Police reportedly located a pistol in Kholmiansky's room at his parents' apartment and drugs in Edelstein's apartment. Close relatives assert that the items were in both cases planted by the police."

Other arrests of other Jewish activists are cited. The report also notes the plight of imprisoned Jews such as Anatoly Shcharansky and Iosif Begun. It adds that "even Jewish refuseniks who sought only their own emigration came under the increasing harassment by the Soviet authorities during the review period."

"The sentencing of Aleksandr Yakir to two years in a labor camp for alleged draft evasion was indicative of the deteriorating situation of Soviet Jewry. Accused of evading the draft since 1977, Yakir was arrested only after he had passed his 28th birthday and was no longer eligible to be inducted into the army."

#### Restrictions On Contacts With Foreigners

The report found that during the six months reviewed, the Soviet Union continued to place restrictions on the ability of Soviet citizens to have contacts with foreigners, adopting a decree July 1 making persons who render assistance to foreigners liable to fines.

"This new Soviet decree on aiding foreigners coincided with an unprecedented campaign of harassment, primarily on the part of Leningrad authorities, aimed at discouraging contacts between local citizens and foreigners," the report said.

"Numerous American tourists were subjected to searches, expulsions physical abuse and detention by the militia simply for having met with Soviet citizens. Jewish refuseniks in Leningrad who met Americans were denounced in the local press. These crude attempts to discourage fundamental freedoms of expression and contacts with foreigners eventually forced the Department of State to issue a travel advisory for Leningrad, warning tourists of potential dangers they may face when visiting the city."

The report found a few bright spots in Eastern Europe. In Czechoslovakia, Rabbi David Miller was ordained becoming the first resident rabbi since 1970. The report also noted that in Hungary last May, authorities quietly began allowing any Israeli to visit, dropping the requirement that only those with relatives in Hungary could travel there. Two delegations, representing the Hungarian Jewish community, also visited Israel.

#### MUNICIPAL WORKERS ON STRIKE IN TEL AVIV; TEACHERS THREATEN GENERAL STRIKE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Israeli teachers threatened a general strike today and Tel Aviv municipal workers walked off the job bringing public services to a standstill.

The teachers, demanding pay raises despite the wage-price freeze now in effect, reported to their classes an hour late yesterday and two hours late this morning. Education Minister Yitzhak Navon met with representatives of the teachers union today to urge them to call off the full strike scheduled for tomorrow.

Garbage went uncollected in Tel Aviv today because sanitation workers and other city employees have not been paid their November wages. It is the fourth consecutive month that the municipality has been unable to meet its payroll on time because funds have been exhausted.

On previous occasions the city borrowed from banks. Mayor Shlomo Lehat, who appealed to Premier Shimon Peres this week for government aid, was told the city would have to manage on its own.

The Treasury cannot transfer funds to hard-pressed municipalities without printing new money. It already owes some 30 billion Shekels in price support subsidies for such basics as petrol, electricity and water which were due last month. The government so far has been unable to persuade Histadrut to agree to price increases for subsidized items during the freeze period to ease the burden on the Treasury.

There was some good economic news today. At the prodding of the Bank of Israel, the country's banks will reduce their prime rate from 14 to 12 percent. The prime rate is the interest banks charge their best customers. Starting tomorrow, the interest paid on bank loans and overdrafts will be down by two percent, the third decrease in the last four weeks.

#### SPECIAL INTERVIEW THE NEGEV IS BECOMING THE PRODUCE BASKET OF ISRAEL AND EUROPE By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The Negev, Israel's arid desert in the south, is not only blooming but is also increasingly becoming the fruit and vegetable basket of Israel and Europe. In fact, an Israeli expert suggests, the Negev can turn into a major source of vegetables and fruit export not only for Europe but for the United States as well.

"We have achieved major success in developing arid land and semi-arid land," Menachem Perlmutter, the engineer chiefly responsible over the past 30 years for bringing Israel's desert to bloom, said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Perlmutter, whose title is "The Jewish Agency's Chief Engineer for the Negev," said that new, scientific methods are responsible for Israel's success story in the Negev.

According to Perlmutter, who is in the United States on a five-week lecture tour under the sponsorship of the United Jewish Appeal, Israeli scientists developed modern methods that helped turn the Negev's sand into land. This was possible, he said, mainly by the Israeli invention of drip irrigation.

"With drip irrigation we are able to water the Negev's sands with brackish water," he explained, noting that the ability to use brackish water, which is available more easily in the Negev, saves the need to use the expensive fresh water that is brought to the desert from over 100 miles away, in the north of Israel.

In addition, Perlmutter continued, "we use the hot sun of the desert, which for generations was considered a curse, for growing summer crops in the winter without additional energy and artificial heating." The curse of brackish water and scorching sun has become a blessing.

#### Record Yield For Cotton And Peanuts

"In the Negev and the Arava (the region between the Dead Sea and Eilat) we are growing all kinds of fruit and vegetable, including green-peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, dates, melons, eggplants, peanuts and more," Perlmutter said. He contended that, in fact, Israel achieved records in growing cotton and peanuts.

He noted that while farmers in Arizona grow 1,200 kilos of cotton per acre, Israeli farmers in the Negev grow twice as much, about 2,400 kilos per acre. In Georgia, according to Perlmutter, farmers grow 1,120 kilos of peanuts per acre, while in the Negev the yield is 2,600 kilos per acre.

"Israel sets the best example on how to change the wasteland to life-supporting land," he said. He said that today there are 189 agricultural settlements in the Negev.

In 1958, Perlmutter pointed out, a United Nations committee of agricultural experts visited Israel and concluded that it would take 25 years until Israel would be able to double its agricultural production. "Well, we did a little better," Perlmutter said with a smile. "We increased the production twelve-fold."

Perlmutter, who resides in Beersheba in the Negev, said that Israel's experience in increasing its food supply might be successfully applied, on a wider scale, in famine stricken Africa. "We have proven that the difference between the possible and the impossible is that the latter take just a little more time," Perlmutter said.

#### 16 NORTH AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS COMPLETE 10-DAY MISSION TO ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Sixteen North American Jewish leaders who completed a 10-day mission to Ethiopia, under the auspices of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), reported that they experienced some of the most significant direct contact with Ethiopian Jewry in many years, including participation in the uniquely Ethiopian-Jewish festival of Seggid, along with 600 Falashas gathered from remote villages in the Gondar province.

The mission members spent almost a full day at the Seggid, a festival combining the joy and religious rites, chanting of prayer and fasting of Yom Kippur and Simchat Torah. Government and military personnel were present, and two of them addressed the assembled Ethiopian Jews at the conclusion of the ceremonies. The festival is normally concluded with food, which was omitted this year because of growing food shortages in which grain prices have risen 140 percent in recent months.

The delegation, NJCRAC's third mission to Ethiopia in the past three years, was able to receive permission to visit five Jewish villages in Gondar including Ambaber, where the Seggid observance was held, Wolleka, Aba Antonius, and the villages of Attege and Kasherhelit which had not been visited by outsiders since ORT's worldwide social welfare, educational and medical projects in Ethiopia were terminated in 1981. With local government approval, the mission distributed medical and school supplies to the Ambaber and Gondar clinics.

#### Fear Famine Might Reach Gondar

While the famine crisis has only reached the fringes of the Gondar province, where most Jews live, both officials and inhabitants of the Jewish villages are very fearful Gondar will be the next area affected by the growing famine in Ethiopia.

The Americans and Canadians on the mission found the earth to be cracked with deep fissures and extremely dry in most of the places they visited throughout the country, including the Jewish villages and other areas even where "Tef," a grain unique to Ethiopia, sorghum and other grains were being harvested, but at much lower levels.

In furtherance of the NJCRAC plenary session vote last February on behalf of advocacy for the famine-stricken areas of Africa, including Ethiopia, the NJCRAC mission investigated the famine gripping the country in meetings with the Catholic Relief Services, the Save the Children organization, officials of the Ethiopian government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RCC), and with American and Canadian embassies. A detailed report on the mission's findings will be issued later this month.

While in the Gondar, the group met with Rep. Gary Ackerman (D. NY) who was there to inspect famine relief camps with a U.S. Congressional delegation headed by Rep. Mickey Leland (D. Texas). Ackerman also reported on the worsening and traumatic conditions including increased fatalities occurring in the north of Ethiopia, which he witnessed.

The mission was led by Gerald Kraft, president of B'nai B'rith International, and included Abraham Bayer, director of the NJCRAC International Commission; Alan Rose, executive director, Canadian Jewish Congress; David Harris, deputy director, International Relations Department of the American Jewish Committee; Stephen Solender, executive vice president Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund of Baltimore; David Ravitch, vice president of the Central New Jersey Jewish Federation; Elaine Ravitch, national officer of Women's League for Conservative Judaism; and Charlotte Turner, MetroWest Federation.

#### ISRAELI GOVERNMENT REFRAINS FROM OFFICIAL REACTION TO JOINT COMMUNIQUE BY HUSSEIN AND MUBARAK

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The government has refrained from any official reaction to Monday's joint communique by King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt which many officials said privately was tantamount to an Egyptian repudiation of the Camp David accords.

Senior officials here cited "mixed and contradictory signals" from Cairo to explain the government's deliberate reticence. It was evident today when, contrary to expectations, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir avoided any reference to the joint communique in a foreign policy speech to the Knesset.

The communique, released simultaneously in Cairo and Amman, followed a scathing attack on the Camp David agreements by Hussein in his address to the Egyptian Parliament Sunday. Officials here noted, however, that Egypt's Premier Kemal Hassan Ali said this week that the communique was not a deviation from Camp David but rather an elucidation of Egypt's interpretation of the Camp David accords.

Hussein and Mubarak called for, among other things, an international peace conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices, based on Security Council Resolution 242. Israel maintains such a conference would be contrary to the Camp David formula which requires direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states.

Another mitigating factor noted by Israeli officials was the weekend interview of Egyptian Minister of State Butros Ghali in the Jewish Chronicle of London who proposed four-party talks between Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians, a pattern close to that envisaged by Camp David.

On the other hand, there have been headline statements from Mubarak's top political aide, Osama El-Baz which have heightened concern in Jerusalem.

Shamir's decision not to comment on the joint communique does not mean he intends to ignore it, his senior aides said. They said Shamir is studying the various texts and statements emanating from Cairo to determine whether there has been a basic shift in Egyptian policy.

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BONN (JTA) -- Former Chancellor Willy Brandt of West Germany will visit Israel next month for the opening of a new research center at Haifa University, named in memory of the German Social Democratic leader Gustav Heinemann.

**RABBIS AMONG WARRIORS**

By Albert W. Bloom  
(Fourth in an Eight-Part Series)

STUTTGART, West Germany, Dec. 5 (JTA)—Chaplain Kenneth J. Leinwand, 33, is married to pretty Bracha (Blessing), an Israeli of Kurdistan descent (third of nine children). The ex-Floridian calls Jerusalem "home." He keeps a Koran in his Hebrew library for Muslims, and remarks, "I have more freedom, Jewishly, in the Army than in any other form of the rabbinate."

Chaplain Leinwand is an example of the bright and many-faceted people who are in the U.S. military chaplaincy overseas, "Rabbis among Warriors" in the "new" Army, Navy, Air Force.

About Chaplain Leinwand and others like him, Brig. Gen. Richard G. Cardillo, 52, of East Orange, N.J., and Denver, chief of staff of the U.S. Seventh Corps, remarks:

"A good commander turns to his chaplains for moral advice."

**General's Operations Cover Most of Germany**

Gen. Cardillo's area covers "half-to-two-thirds of Germany." The general is a Catholic of Italian descent who "made it" in an America of opportunity. He notes:

"We are dealing with a new Army of young people; youngsters who often for the first time are away from home. They are freer, their parental bonds are gone. They are eager to explore and exchange ideas. Their philosophical ideas are still forming. And one of the first things they change is their attitude toward religion."

Gen. Cardillo is a vigorous man with an erect military bearing even when sitting comfortably. As he spoke to us, he was dressed in camouflage uniform. His jet black hair was flecked with a touch of gray, attesting to his heavy responsibilities as commander for in this North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) post.

"We don't want to sell our people church or synagogue. But our first job is to minister to the young. Once we do get to our men and their families, we want to encourage them to be part of their own religious environment."

"I don't have enough chaplains, Jewish or Catholic."

**"We Are All Success Oriented"**

"The difficult thing is that we are all success-oriented. We are interested in success with the soldier and with his family—and they are younger now these days. Attendance at religious services in the military overseas is based on the family, but there are only a few teenagers in attendance, and often only about two percent are the soldiers themselves."

"We fail somewhere. Chaplains of all faiths have a heavy duty. It is difficult anywhere today, let alone far from home to take an 18-to-20-year-old man or woman and in 18-to-20 months make a drastic change in his or her whole attitude toward life. But we do it. We focus on success."

Chaplains of Christian faiths often express surprise that even though Jews are few and scattered over the varied command units, they seem to gravitate to their Jewish religious and social institutions in groups disproportionate to their numbers.

One Jewish soldier remarked to us: "We are pretty isolated over here. I don't see another Jewish person during the whole week."

Chaplain Leinwand observed that "Jewish identity often seems more important to these soldiers than their religious practices."

**Chaplain Leinwand Runs Open House Study Groups**

While there are not enough little children to have a religious school at the Stuttgart base, Chaplain Leinwand holds "open house" and study groups in his home for children, youth and adults. His wife Bracha is the "religious studies coordinator." He also provides individuals with self-study texts, compliments of JWB's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy.

Here again, "lay leaders" are needed to keep a Jewish continuity going in remote stations where the chaplain rarely can visit.

Chaplain Leinwand is also administrative funding officer for the chaplains under the jurisdiction of Col. Chandler P. Robbins II, 49, deputy commanding officer, Stuttgart.

"Chaplains are as important as surgeons to the Army," said Col. Robbins. "The chaplaincy is as American as motherhood and apple pie. We could not imagine our military services without our chaplains and their help."

The Stuttgart Military Community is "like a large American city within a German city . . . we are scattered all over the map," said Col. Robbins, gesturing to a chart on his wall.

"We support 30,000 soldiers, their dependents, and civilian employees in the Stuttgart Military Community, along with the logistical services. The needs of the American population here go very deep, very broad, regardless of religious denomination."

**"We've Got to Worry About Americans 24 Hours a Day"**

"We have got to worry about our American community 24 hours a day, including families with family problems. This is different from life in the U.S.A. We also have German law to worry about, since 'status of forces' agreements regulate relationships between Americans and Germans in the host country."

In fact, most German Jews do not feel or consider themselves West Germans, though they hold West German passports. The legacy of the recent past, Hitler's murderous legacy, is present, even when people put on their social-blindness.

Therefore, the Stuttgart Jewish community feels a closeness in many respects to American Jewish Chaplain Leinwand. When the local civilian rabbi of the "Stuttgart Gemeinde" community was absent on a day we were there, Chaplain Leinwand was summoned to officiate at an unveiling of a gravestone in the Jewish cemetery. He went routinely, as did we, despite the cold fall rain. The mourner's kaddish mingled with the thunders above.

Hardly a word was spoken between the two communities of mourners. The raindrops hid the tears in a cemetery where there was a gap of a generation-of-years on the gravestone markers!

In central Stuttgart, the Jewish community has a rebuilt, new (1951) "Gemeinde Centrum," with two synagogues, a school, a library, a kosher restaurant, a mikvah (ritualarium), and communal offices, guarded by sophisticated electronic security services, a precaution against Arab terrorists.

**Dinner at Kosher Restaurant With Leaders**

Several leaders of the Gemeinde waited dinner for us at the kosher restaurant. They were: Roman and Lotte Mandelbaum, he of Crakow, she a Stuttgart native. How did she survive the Nazis? "I was not Jewish then," she smiled. After the war, she converted to Judaism, married, and became a leader in the community. Roman is an engineer. Arno Fern, a textile manufacturer, who was born in Nuremberg, was with us, too.

They estimate there are about 700 Jews in the Stuttgart area, about 420 in the city itself—with as many as 200 more "unregistered" for a variety of reasons, including social and psychological "escapism."

The future? "I am not sure that there is a 'future' for Jews in Germany," Mandelbaum insists. "People come back to die."

"Some are afraid of anti-Semitism, still." Why do they come? Some because it is more "natural" for them, despite the painful memories; some to qualify for their pensions, which they can only receive if they reside in the country; still others Jewish refugees from Nazi-shattered, post-war Eastern Europe, now Soviet occupied.

The chaplain, a graduate of Hebrew Union College and the University of Manitoba, has been in the Army for seven and half years.

Chaplain Leinwand's parents have come from Israel, where they had retired, to live near their son in West Germany. Sidney Leinwand is a volunteer lay leader in Heilbronn. He also teaches science in a junior high school; Florence Leinwand, the chaplain's mother, is the registrar of the City College of Chicago branch connected with the U.S. military overseas.

**Chaplain Feels Strongly About His Roles**

Chaplain Leinwand views his roles as:

1. Opportunity for every Jewish person in the military to express his or her Jewish identity.
  2. The best image of Jews and Judaism within the Army.
  3. Education to non-Jews about Judaism and joining in dialogue between Jews, Christians and other non-Jews.
  4. A patriotic expression of the ideal of religious freedom in America by service in the military.
- He urges more Jewish youngsters to join the military and those who are eligible, the chaplaincy, for unique Jewish service.

One of his duties as chaplain is educational coordinator of religious teachers of various faiths in the U.S. military. We met them, all bright young American wives and mothers.

Now these U.S. civilian teachers are planning with Chaplain Leinwand to visit the Holy Land, a pilgrimage which he will lead to Jerusalem, a place Chaplain Leinwand calls "home."

Next: *The Jumping Chaplain*