

SHAMIR: HUSSEIN-ARAFAT ACCORD 'DOES NOT SERVE THE INTERESTS' OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- The agreement between King Hussein of Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat "does not serve the interests of peace" in the Middle East, Israel's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir maintained in an interview published today in *Le Monde*.

But the Israeli leader, on a week-long visit to France, West Germany and Holland, did not rule out the possibility of a meeting between Premier Shimon Peres and Hussein. The conditions for such an eventuality "have been foreseen and are covered by the agreement which set up the (Labor-Likud unity) coalition government," he said.

He saw the Hussein-Arafat accord, however, as a tactical move to draw the United States into contact with the PLO. The Israeli government so far has kept a low profile toward the agreement. It was announced on February 11 but the Jordanian and PLO versions, which emerged only this weekend, were contradictory in several key aspects.

Shamir is to meet with President Francois Mitterrand this afternoon and will be the guest of honor at a State dinner given by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas tonight. He leaves for Bonn tomorrow for a meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The main purpose of Shamir's trip is to get guarantees for Israel's agricultural exports to Western Europe after Spain and Portugal are admitted to the 10-nation European Economic Community (EEC).

Will Use All Available Means To Stop Terrorism

He used the *Le Monde* interview, however, to defend Israeli policies in south Lebanon, from which the Israel Defense Force is now in the process of withdrawing. Much of the media here, and in Germany and Holland, the next countries on Shamir's itinerary, have been sharply critical of the IDF's allegedly repressive measures in the areas of south Lebanon still under its control.

Shamir told *Le Monde*, "We will use all available means to stop terrorist activities over our soldiers. We are going to use methods not yet employed," he said, to make clear to "Lebanon and the entire Middle East that we are withdrawing not out of weakness but because our military presence (in Lebanon) is no longer necessary. All those who would want to take advantage of this situation will be severely punished."

Shamir said he still believed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June, 1982 was not a mistake. "We had no other solution" at the time, he said.

Concern Over Future Of Israeli Exports

Shamir is the third Israeli leader in as many weeks to visit Europe to present Israel's concerns over the future of its exports once Spain and Portugal have full status as members of the EEC. He was preceded by President Chaim Herzog who visited Luxembourg and Brussels and addressed the Parliament of Europe in Strasbourg; and by Premier Peres who visited Italy and Rumania last week.

Spain is Israel's principal competitor, especially in citrus exports to the European Common Market. Shamir is reminding his French hosts, and will remind the West Germans and Dutch as well, that the EEC is Israel's main trading partner; and that even before the entry of Spain and Portugal it is running a \$1.8 billion trade deficit with the 10 Common Market countries.

Shamir told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here that unless Israel can secure guarantees that its agricultural exports will be granted equal terms with those of Spain and Portugal, Israel's already floundering economy will suffer still more.

He said Israel hopes that France, West Germany and Holland will manage to convince Italy, also a major exporter of agricultural products, to end its opposition to special treatment for Israel.

MUBARAK'S PROPOSALS WELCOMED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Political sources here today welcomed proposals by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt for direct talks between Israel and a joint delegation composed of Palestinians and Jordanians.

An emissary of Mubarak, Osama El-Baz, one of his closest advisers, was expected here this evening, apparently with a message from the Egyptian President who leaves for Washington in two weeks to meet with President Reagan on March 12. (Reports from Cairo tonight said El-Baz might not be arriving in Israel today.)

The sources here said Mubarak proposed the direct talks as an alternative to an international conference on the Middle East which is favored by the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organization and opposed by Israel and the U.S.

But according to an interview with Mubarak, published in *The New York Times* this morning, the Egyptian leader's proposal was for direct talks between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as only a first step, to be followed by an international conference in which the Soviets and all other parties concerned would participate.

The *Times* quoted Mubarak as saying "An international conference could be the last stage as a blessing of the solution."

In Line With Camp David Accords

The sources here said Mubarak's proposal, as they saw it, was in line with the Camp David accords which stipulated that Palestinian representatives would be members of a Jordanian delegation in the negotiations for Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Those negotiations have not materialized because Jordan and the Palestinians have refused to participate in them without preconditions.

The composition of the Arab delegation is also an issue because Israel has vowed never to deal with the PLO which it regards as a terrorist organization. But even Premier Menachem Begin's government at the time was prepared to overlook the political records of Palestinian members of a Jordanian delegation, including any formal connections with the PLO.

In recent weeks, Israeli officials tended to dismiss Mubarak's suggestions as public relations gestures. But Israeli-Egyptian contacts have improved of late

and there is a tendency to view Cairo's proposals as more substantive. Mubarak sent an envoy to Rumania last week to meet with Premier Shimon Peres who was visiting Bucharest. El-Baz will be the second Mubarak emissary to see Peres in little more than a week.

Statements By Mubarak

According to The New York Times interview, Mubarak declared his willingness to host an Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian meeting in Cairo. But he also urged the Reagan Administration to invite the parties to Washington to lay the ground work for direct peace talks between them. Mubarak told the Times that he was willing to attend such a meeting, in Cairo or "anywhere" that was agreeable to all parties.

With respect to Israel's refusal to have any contacts with the PLO, Mubarak said a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation need not include known members of the PLO. "The PLO has lots of people on the West Bank. Let us be practical," he said.

Mubarak also told the Times that he was not urging the U.S. to recognize the PLO or to put pressure on Israel. He emphasized repeatedly the need to be "practical."

Mubarak's Proposals Seen As Positive

Few official comments were available during the day about Mubarak's proposal of direct Israeli-Jordanian talks. Peres said this evening that Israel should examine this idea thoroughly and positively. Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman said in a radio interview that the present contacts with Egypt should eventually lead to a summit meeting between Peres and Mubarak.

He described Mubarak's proposals as "positive, certainly interesting," and noted that these were part of the process which began in the late 1970's--when then President Anwar Sadat made his historic visit to Jerusalem and addressed the Knesset -- and has since then been frozen.

According to analysts here, Mubarak made his proposals in order to achieve an agreement in principle which he could bring with him to Washington. The Voice of Israel reported tonight that the idea of direct talks to be held in Cairo was conveyed to Peres and Weizman by Mohammad Abdallah, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of Egypt's Parliament, when they were in Bucharest last week.

RIVAL ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS FACTIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON RENEW WARFARE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Renewed warfare between rival ethnic and religious factions was reported today in the regions of south Lebanon just evacuated by the Israel Defense Force and in the Beirut area as well.

Fighting was reported in the Shouf mountains and in the hills between Sidon and Beirut. Druze reportedly exchanged fire with Lebanon army regulars and clashes between Druze and Christian villagers were also reported.

Inside the Moslem quarters of Beirut, fighting was reported between the Shiite mainstream Amal movement and Shiite extremists influenced by the Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran.

The level of the fighting was relatively low in the mountainous districts because of cold weather and heavy snow. But in the port city of Tyre, a roadblock manned by the Israel-backed South Lebanon

Army (SLA) was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic fire. There were no casualties. Other SLA positions in the vicinity of Tyre have been attacked in recent days.

LEBANON REQUESTS 'URGENT MEETING' OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Lebanon requested here today an "urgent meeting" of the Security Council "to consider the continuing acts of aggression and abusive practices of Israeli occupying forces in southern Lebanon, the western Bekaa and the Rashaya district."

The request, in a letter to this month's President of the Security Council, Ambassador Natarajan Krishnan of India, was made by the Lebanese Ambassador to the UN, M. Rachid Fakhourey.

According to a UN spokesman, members of the Security Council will start tomorrow informal consultations on the Lebanese request. An official meeting of the Security Council will probably be held toward the end of the week or at the beginning of next week, diplomats here said.

The Lebanese request follows tough measures taken by the IDF against Shiite terrorists. According to reports from Lebanon, Israeli troops besieged at least nine Shiite villages in south Lebanon in an effort to cut down the number of attacks on Israeli forces.

MITTERRAND PROMISES TO BACK ISRAEL'S DEMANDS IN THE EEC

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- President Francois Mitterrand today promised to back Israel's demands for European Economic Community (EEC) provisions which would safeguard its agricultural exports to the 10 member-states after Spain and Portugal join it next year. Israeli Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he was satisfied and optimistic that some workable arrangement will be found.

Shamir, who arrived yesterday in Paris on the first leg of a six-day trip which will also take him to West Germany and Holland, is to meet later this week with the West German Chancellor and the Dutch Premier. He conferred in Paris with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of European Affairs Catherine Lalumiere, and opposition leader Jacques Chirac.

Shamir said after his meeting with Mitterrand that the President did not try to press Israel into talks with Jordan and that he said "it is up to Israel and the Arab nations to decide how to proceed and to arrange their own peace process."

ANTI-SEMITIC VANDALISM

MONTREAL, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Police are investigating a spate of incidents in which homes and cars of Jewish families in Snowdon and Mont Royal districts have been daubed with swastikas. "Private Jewish property, including cars, houses and even lobbies of apartment buildings have been sprayed with swastikas," Arthur Hies, executive director of B'nai B'rith for Eastern Canada, reported.

"This is not just ordinary graffiti but a form of anti-Jewish violence," he said. "Whoever is doing it knows who they are hitting." Hies said there had been 30 such incidents since last October.

Bernard Finestone, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Eastern Region, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after a meeting he had with the Montreal police that "We are working hard, hand in hand with the

police to apprehend and put in jail those vandals who are spraying swastikas on Jewish homes, cars and other properties." He said the vandals appear to be "unstable elements in our society who try to take advantage of the rising tension generated by the recent hunt for Nazi war criminals."

U.S. WON'T BECOME INVOLVED IN ARAB-ISRAELI TALKS UNTIL ARABS AGREE TO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration reiterated today that it will not become involved in Arab-Israeli negotiations, as called for by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, until the Arabs agree to direct negotiations with Israel.

At the same time, the Administration indicated that while it views the agreement on a joint Middle East peace framework by King Hussein of Jordan and Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat as a positive move, it does not yet see it as including the U.S. requirement for direct negotiations.

"As we have said, we are ready to re-engage in the search for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East whenever the parties are ready," State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said when asked about Mubarak's statements in an interview in The New York Times today. "We would support direct talks between Israel and its Arab neighbors in any way that seems appropriate at that time."

Kalb refused to comment on Mubarak's proposal that the U.S. invite Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to set the framework for negotiations. Nor would he comment on Mubarak's alternative proposal that he would host such a meeting in Cairo.

But Kalb said the Reagan Administration would discuss the Middle East process with Mubarak when the Egyptian leader visits President Reagan in Washington March 12. Reagan stressed the need for direct talks when he met with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, February 11-12, who also urged greater U.S. involvement.

A Long Way To Go

Asked about the Hussein-Arafat agreement, Kalb said "what we have seen so far constitutes a step in the right direction, but there is a long way to go." He repeated the need for direct negotiations based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

"As we have said," Kalb added, "if the agreement promotes movement toward the negotiating table and if it reflects an awareness that direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors are the only way to achieve peace in the Middle East, then it will have been a constructive step."

Kalb would not say what in the agreement which was published over the weekend from Amman, reflects "progress." Nor would he comment on whether the U.S. views anything in the accord as constituting acceptance of Resolution 242 which the PLO, as late as last week, had rejected.

The agreement calls for "total withdrawal (by Israel) from territories occupied in 1967 for comprehensive peace as established in UN and Security Council resolutions." This apparently includes General Assembly resolutions not accepted by either Israel or the United States. Administration officials have long stressed that they want a flat statement clearly expressing acceptance of resolutions 242 and 338.

The Hussein-Arafat agreement also calls for peace negotiations under the auspices of an international conference which would include the five permanent members of the Security Council and "all the parties in the conflict," including the PLO as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The U.S. rejected such an international conference which has been proposed by the Soviet Union, as has Israel. In addition, Israel has said it will never sit down with the PLO.

Mubarak, in his New York Times interview, called the Hussein-Arafat agreement a "very good achievement" but also stressed that it was "only a first step." He, too, called for direct talks between Israel and members of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which he said could include Palestinians who were not known members of the PLO. He said an international conference could come after an agreement had been reached.

Meanwhile, Kalb added a warning today that "it would be most unfortunate if the parties in the region, by resorting to the public media, reduced their ability to achieve the objective of direct negotiations." He would not specify the target or targets of his statement.

PROTESTS AGAINST PROPOSALS OF LIBERAL PARTY MERGER WITH HERUT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- About 100 members of the Liberal Party's Central Committee turned up for a meeting here last night to protest proposals by Liberal ministers in the unity coalition Cabinet for an outright merger with Herut.

Herut and the Liberal Party constitute the Likud bloc, but as separate entities, each with its own internal party organs. Each draws up its own list of candidates for Knesset elections which are combined in a bargaining process between the two factions to present the voters with a single list labeled Likud.

Herut is the larger of the two factions and it prevailed upon the Liberals before the last elections -- held July 23, 1984 -- to accept a smaller ratio of "safe" seats and Cabinet posts. Herut has long been in favor of merger. But many Liberals fear it would mark the end of their party as a political entity and stifle its political and ideological aims which, in many respects, differ sharply from those of the more militant Herut.

None of the Liberal ministers who favor merger attended last night's meeting and they put strong pressure on their colleagues to cancel it. The turnout of 100 Central Committee members, little more than a third of its 247 members, was considered satisfactory by the organizers. Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, is one of the leading opponents of merger with Herut.

He joined with Liberal mayors of several large cities to urge that merger negotiations now under way be suspended until the party's long overdue national convention. Conventions are scheduled every three years but the Liberals have held none in five years.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- With spring just around the corner, Israel's hitherto mild winter suddenly turned vicious Sunday night. Accompanied by lightning and thunder, high winds and freezing rain swept the coastal plain and turned to snow in the hill areas. By noon Monday, Jerusalem and the Judea region of the West Bank were blanketed with snow. In the arid Neg-
ev, wadis (dry river beds) overflowed with torrents pouring down from the hills and sand storm warnings were posted.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER WARNS THAT GROWING GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN RELIGION THREATENS JUDAISM IN U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25 (JTA) — "The creche on the courthouse lawn" and the prayers in the public schools that mark the weakening of church-state separation "threaten the integrity of Judaism itself in this land," Theodore Mann, a constitutional lawyer and president of the American Jewish Congress, told 450 Jewish leaders from across the U.S. meeting here at the annual plenary session of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC).

Focusing on the psychological impact and theological implications of growing governmental involvement in religion, Mann called the current erosion of the constitutional principle of church-state separation potentially "devastating," threatening to transform American Jews into "outsiders" and "strangers in their own land."

Reverend Charles Bergstrom, executive director of Governmental Affairs for the Lutheran Council in the United States of America, shared the podium with Mann at a plenum session on "Church-State Separation: The Wall Under Attack." Bergstrom denounced the current assault on the separation principle, terming it an "attempt to Christianize America."

Mann, who has argued church-state cases before the Supreme Court on behalf of the Jewish community, asserted that Judge Sandra Day O'Connor had correctly stated that government endorsement of religion "sends a message to non-adherents that they are outsiders, not full members of the political community."

Made To Feel Like Outsiders

Terming a creche "a symbolic reenactment of the birth of a divine being," he claimed that "the concept that a divine being was born" is completely antithetical to Jewish theology. "The creche and the cross as governmental symbols, as well as prayers in public schools, stand as dramatic reminders of our differences with Christianity, thereby making us feel like outsiders in the way that minority groups so often feel," he said.

Mann noted that there will soon be significant Supreme Court decisions involving creches and school prayer, while widespread attempts to extend government involvement in religion can be expected to continue. He recommended steps to address these developments to his audience of Jewish community relations leaders.

The American Jewish Congress president stressed the importance of an active campaign of challenging the constitutionality of legislation and practices that violate the separation principle. He urged "seeking a new set of allies in these challenges from among the abundant non-Christian immigrants who have come into the United States since our immigration laws changed in 1965."

Bergstrom, who described himself as "a born again Christian Evangelical," deplored the current attack on church-state separation. "We are seeing an intolerant attempt to Christianize America," he charged. "It is based," he said, "on a misreading of the Constitution and a misinterpretation of Scripture."

The Lutheran leader sharply attacked "the radical religious Right" for "attempting to confuse the words of politics and religion." He called the use of terms such as "Christian issues" and "Christian candidate" the "parlance of religious bigotry and blatant intolerance."

Bergstrom strongly criticized the role of President Reagan, who he called a "political fundamentalist." He pointed to the 1984 Republican convention's "endorsement of the radical religious Right"; the "twisted logic" of calling opponents of school prayer "intolerant"; and the "horrible theology of a President who claims that prayer is in danger of being kicked out of school."

JEWISH LEADER URGES APPLICATION OF TORAH TO AID THE POOR AND HELPLESS

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25 (JTA) — Dr. Daniel Thursz, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith International, said that the "invisibility" of the poor, homeless and hungry in America, whose increase he termed "shocking," has "made possible the dismantling of programs and structures that aimed at a more just society."

He made this statement at the plenary session of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), which met here last week, at a forum on the religious response to poverty. Also addressing the forum were San Francisco Archbishop John Quinn and the Rev. Joan Campbell, Assistant General Secretary of the National Council of Churches.

Thursz called upon the 450 plenary delegates to "apply Torah to our society and to use moral principles to aid the poor and helpless." A restatement of the commitment to social justice is necessary, he said, to reverse the current trend of "social dislocation and despair for some, and uncaring affluence for others."

The B'nai B'rith leader then addressed himself to the U.S. Bishops' "Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy," published in draft form in November and discussed at the session by Quinn.

Quinn, a past president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, told the forum that "poverty diminishes the dignity of the human person." He listed five "basic human rights" that must be fulfilled to ensure human dignity: the rights to employment, an adequate income, medical care, education, and private property.

"Economic practices which violate the common good or violate human dignity in the name of private property are not morally defensible," Quinn said. Therefore, he continued, monopolistic pricing, unfair labor practices, sub-minimum wage rates and environmentally destructive practices are "immoral."

Responding to Quinn, as well as to Campbell — who called for a united effort on the part of a rebuilt interfaith coalition to address the world's economic inequities — Thursz called for the discovery of "a commonality between our own Jewish faith and the faith in the Catholic and Protestant communities, so we can join hands in building a more just world for all." He suggested the creation of joint commissions to recommend specific issues and to program for joint efforts.