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**PERES OPPOSED TO INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 30 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres spoke out strongly today against an international conference as the framework for Middle East peace negotiations and expressed disbelief in reports from Washington that the Reagan Administration may be edging away from its opposition to such an approach.

Peres said that when he met with Secretary of State George Shultz here earlier this month, Shultz agreed that an international conference would not serve the cause of peace.

The reports from Washington were related to yesterday's meeting between President Reagan and King Hussein of Jordan. In prepared remarks to the press afterwards, Hussein said that Jordan and the Palestinians are ready to negotiate "within the context of an international conference." Reagan, answering reporters' questions, said that while the U.S. has differences with Jordan over a conference, the issue is being discussed with the Jordanians.

A senior Administration official who briefed reporters later, said the U.S. believes an international conference would be "political theater," a stage for "rhetoric." He added, however, that "nothing is static."

The position of Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization, stated in the February 11 agreement between Hussein and PLO chief Yasir Arafat to negotiate jointly, is for peace talks to be held in the context of an international conference in which the participants would be the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and all parties to the Middle East conflict.

Warns Against A Soviet Role

Israel and the U.S. have consistently opposed that approach and favor instead direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab adversaries along the lines of the 1978 Camp David negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

Peres, speaking during a visit to Acre, warned that an international conference would bring the Soviet Union into the Middle East peace process. He noted that Moscow supports the most extreme Arab positions, and Israel would thus be faced at the negotiating table with an extremist rejectionist front.

Peres said an international conference would in fact be an attempt to circumvent substantive negotiations between the parties directly concerned. He said that even President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt had expressed reservations over such a conference in a recent message to him.

**BANGLADESH CYCLONE VICTIMS GET AID
FROM B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL**

WASHINGTON, May 30 (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith International today contributed an initial \$1,000 to the relief of the victims of a cyclone that devastated southeastern Bangladesh last weekend.

Dr. Daniel Thursz, executive vice president of the Jewish service organization, called on B'nai B'rith lodges and units around the world, as well as all persons of the Jewish faith, to donate funds to the Moslem country.

"From its very inception, B'nai B'rith has done what it can to alleviate the hardships of people stricken by disaster," said Thursz. "Race, religion and nationality are not factors; only humanity is."

The B'nai B'rith leader urged members and others in the Jewish community to send contributions for Bangladesh relief to the organization's international headquarters, 1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. The funds will be forwarded to the appropriate relief agencies for Bangladesh. Checks should be made out to "B'nai B'rith - Bangladesh Relief."

According to reports, more than 10,000 persons are missing or dead, 14,000 cattle killed and nearly half a million acres of crops destroyed.

**U.S. ACCUSES USSR OF GOVERNMENT
SPONSORED 'SCHIZOPHRENIC'
ANTI-SEMITIC POLICY TOWARD SOVIET JEWS**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 30 (JTA) -- The United States accused the Soviet Union this week of a government-sponsored "schizophrenic" anti-Semitic policy toward the Jews in the Soviet Union.

"It would appear that the Soviet leadership follows a schizophrenic policy with regard to Jews, on one hand making life miserable for them, and on the other hand not letting them out of the country," Richard Schifter, the chief U.S. delegate to the six-week conference on the human rights aspects of the Helsinki accord in Ottawa said Tuesday. A copy of his remarks was released to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here today.

Speaking to a plenary session of The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Schifter, who is also the deputy U.S. representative to the United Nations in New York and the U.S. representative to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, said the Soviet signature on Helsinki Final Act pledges the Soviet Union to free emigration.

"There is no doubt that a significant irritant to good international relations would be removed if the Soviet leadership were to decide to relax its present severe limitations on emigration," he said.

In his speech, which dealt with the discrimination against minorities in the Soviet Union, Schifter said that not only were the estimated some two million Jews in the USSR suffering discrimination, but so were persons of partially Jewish ancestry.

'Creeping Process' Of Anti-Semitism

He said that anti-Semitic policies have increased through a "creeping process" since the Stalin era to where it has now "affected all aspects of governmentally-regulated life." He said Jews are discriminated against in employment and have been barred or severely restricted from certain departments of government.

There are also limitations on entrance by Jews to the most desirable educational institutions. "This policy of limiting the opportunities of Jews in employment and education has been accompanied by a step-up in anti-Semitic propaganda" veiled as anti-Zionism, Schifter charged. "But it does not take a great deal of political sophistication for any reader of the material in question to recognize that the views of the person who are the object of attack on Middle Eastern politics are irrelevant. It is their ancestry that counts."

Schifter said that because of this "virulent" anti-Semitism "Jews have turned inward, have rediscovered their religion and their culture and, above all, want to leave the country that they believe has made it clear to them that it does not want them."

But, he noted, "they are hindered in the teaching and practice of their religion, hindered in the study of their culture, with particular obstacles placed in the way of Hebrew teaching, and they are prevented from leaving the country."

FRENCH TV WON'T SHOW FILM WHICH CHARGES THAT WAR-TIME COMMUNIST PARTY BETRAYED JEWISH RESISTANCE GROUP

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 30 (JTA) -- The State-controlled television yesterday decided against screening a TV film which charges the war-time French Communist Party with betraying a Jewish resistance group.

The film, "Retired Terrorists," retraces the story of "the Manouchian group," a network of anti-Nazi resistance fighters. Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld accused the television Authority of having "given in to Communist Party pressures and to the (Communist) Party's refusal to search into its past."

The wartime resistance group, led by an Armenian, Missak Manouchian, consisted of 21 other refugees, mainly East European Jews. All were executed by a German firing squad in February, 1944. The group, affiliated with the French Communist underground, had carried out 120 armed actions which included sabotaging German troops trains and killing individual Nazis.

Countless historians have sought to find out who betrayed the group. According to Communist researchers, it was a certain Joseph Davidowicz, a former member of the group, who betrayed his comrades under torture. Davidowicz was later executed by another resistance group.

Other historians believe the Communist Party itself betrayed the group for tactical and political reasons. The banned film supports that stand.

Klarsfeld charged that banning the film is part of an attempt "to erase from public consciousness the active role played by thousands of Jews in the anti-Nazi resistance fight." Organizations of former Jewish resistance fighters, who hoped that the airing of the film would put on record the role Jews had played in fighting the Nazis in France, have also protested against the ban. The film was to have been screened at prime time next Sunday.

JEWISH UNDERGROUND MEMBERS SENTENCED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 30 (JTA) -- The Jerusalem District Court this week sentenced to prison terms ranging from 36 months and 40 months two members of the Jewish terrorist underground for their participation in the underground's attempted acts of

violence against West Bank Arabs and Moslem holy sites. Menachem Neuberger of the West Bank settlement of Susiya in the Hebron region, was sentenced by the court today to 22 months in prison and 18 months suspended sentence. In a separate action, the court yesterday freed Zeev Friedman after sentencing him to 11 months in jail.

Friedman, 31 and a former mayor of Kiryat Arba, the orthodox Jewish settlement adjacent to Hebron, was also given 25 months suspended sentence. Since he already served in detention almost 13 months, he was freed immediately. The judges reportedly showed leniency in their verdict since Friedman suffers from a severe illness.

Friedman was convicted of having plotted to kill Ahmed Hamzi Nathe, leader of the Palestine National Guidance Committee in Bethlehem, of having possessed and transported guns and sabotage material, and of having participated in a terror group. A former security coordinator in Kiryat Arba, he is also a reserve officer in the armored corps.

Neuberger, meanwhile, the 29-year-old son-in-law of Tehiya Knesset member Eliezer Waldman, was convicted of gathering information for the attack on Nathe, as well as having plotted to attack the Temple Mount. He has been detained for 13 months. It is expected he will be out of jail in two months if he receives the customary cut of one-third of the prison term due to good behavior.

In passing sentence, the court said that despite the gravity with which it regarded Neuberger's acts his were less serious than those of the other alleged members of the Jewish underground. The court noted that the conspiracy was not his own initiative, but that he responded to someone else's initiative. Character witnesses described Neuberger as an excellent soldier and a person of good reputation.

POLICE SEIZE LARGE QUANTITY OF NAZI ERA BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

AMSTERDAM, May 30 (JTA) -- Police in Groningen have seized large quantities of books and pamphlets of the Nazi era which were part of an auction sale there this week. They acted on the orders of the local public prosecutor who may decide to bring charges against the auction house for violating an article of the Dutch penal code which makes the distribution of Nazi material a punishable offense.

The prosecutor attended the auction at the behest of the Foundation to Combat Anti-Semitism in The Netherlands (STIBA). Neither the police nor the auction house will disclose the name of the owner of the collection. According to the auctioneer, the books and pamphlets were mostly on maritime and aviation subjects but there was some Nazi material published for German and Dutch consumption.

The librarian of The Netherlands State Institute for War Documentation (RIOD) is studying the material to determine whether the auction house can be sued by the State for violation of the penal code. The house earlier sent a catalogue of the material to scientific libraries and persons professionally interested in the period 1933-1945, the 12 years of the Third Reich.

ALLOCATIONS FOR JDC PROGRAMS IN ETHIOPIA NOW STAND AT \$4.5 MILLION

NEW YORK, May 30 (JTA) -- Allocations for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee famine relief and development programs in Ethiopia now stand at \$4.5 million, according to Heinz Eppler, JDC president.

Epper, addressing the semi-annual meeting of the JDC board of directors here, yesterday told the more than 150 people present that more than \$1.9 million in cash donations had been received since the JDC "opened its mailbox" on November 1, 1984 and that donations of goods, such as clothing, cloth, medicine and medical supplies with an estimated value of \$2 million had also been received.

An annual budget of \$400,000 was reported for development programs in the Gondar region of Ethiopia. Epper said that \$600,000 expenditures from this budget line over the past six months brings the total since November to \$4.5 million.

JDC board chairman Henry Taub opened the semi-annual meeting and presented the annual JDC-Smolard student journalism award of \$1,000 to David Shapiro of Toronto, a student at Brandeis University.

Saul Cohen, appointed JDC executive vice president on March 1, said "whether it is one case in Portugal, 39 Jews in Lebanon, 80 people in Burma, 4,000 in Syria ... the power of JDC to fulfill its overseas commitments by working with fellow-Jews everywhere is immense, and the tradition of service is being responsibly upheld today as it has been throughout the 70 years of JDC's noble history."

Role Of JDC Cited

The guest speaker was David Wyman, professor of history at the University of Massachusetts and author of "The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust 1941-1945." Wyman listed the record of JDC's efforts to save the Jews of Europe, calling it "a success within a failure" of the Holocaust.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Saul Kagan, a long-time member of the JDC board and administrator of the hardship fund of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

A dinner attended by 300 people in honor of Ralph Goldman, JDC executive vice president emeritus, closed the events of the day. The dinner was chaired by Elaine Winik. The highlight of the dinner was the presentation by Emmanuel de Margerie, French Ambassador to the United States, of the award of the Legion of Honor to Goldman.

ADMINISTRATION CLARIFIES POSITION ON MIDEAST PEACE TALKS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 30 (JTA)-- The Reagan Administration said today that its major objective in the Middle East was to find a "mechanism" to bring about direct talks between the Arabs and Israel.

"The bedrock of the American position is to obtain a mechanism which will lead to progress in the peace process and certainly lead to direct talks between the Arabs and the Israelis," State Department deputy spokesman Edward Djerejian said.

He was trying to clarify the United States' position after President Reagan indicated yesterday, following his two hour meeting with King Hussein of Jordan, that the United States was moving away from its opposition to an international conference to negotiate a peace settlement. Hussein had stressed to reporters that he needed the "umbrella" of an international conference in order to conduct negotiations with Israel.

The situation became further ambiguous when Secretary of State George Shultz, at a dinner for Hussein last night, in praising the King for his ef-

forts to advance the peace process, talked of negotiations within an "international context." Djerejian pointed out that Reagan said yesterday that the U.S. has "differences" with Hussein over such an international conference and that those differences would be discussed with the King before he leaves Washington tomorrow. Djerejian stressed that the U.S. is keeping in close touch with all the parties concerned on these developments.

Soviet Role In Mideast Peace Process

The spokesman conceded today that one major difference over an international conference is U.S. opposition to the participation of the Soviet Union. Hussein made it clear yesterday that the Soviet Union would be a participant since his February 11 agreement with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat calls for an international conference which would include the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

"We have said on many occasions that if the Soviet Union demonstrates a willingness to play a constructive role in the Middle East peace process, we would welcome that development," Djerejian said. "However, so far we are seeing no evidence that the Soviets are prepared to play such a role."

Djerejian spelled out some steps the U.S. believes the Soviets should take if it wants to demonstrate that it can be constructive. He said these include: Resumption of full diplomatic relations with Israel; the end of Soviet anti-Semitic propaganda; improving the treatment of Soviet Jews, including the right to emigrate; the exercise of Soviet influence to reduce arms supplies to Iran by Soviet friends and allies; ending Soviet arms supplies to militia groups in Lebanon and desisting from efforts to obstruct positive moves expanding the peace process in the region.

On the role of the PLO, Djerejian noted that Hussein said that his willingness to negotiate with Israel as part of a joint Jordanian-PLO delegation comes not only from the February 11 agreement but from the King's recent talks with the PLO, which includes the organization's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

But the Department spokesman added that the U.S. still required the "PLO clearly and unequivocally to accept U.S. conditions which are the acceptance of the two resolutions and 'Israel's right to exist.'" He said this acceptance must be "explicit and public" and if it comes "we will begin a substantial dialogue with that organization."

PLO Role

At the same time, he said U.S. acceptance of the PLO, does not mean the PLO can be accepted as the Palestinian representative in a joint delegation with Jordan for negotiations with Israel since all the concerned parties must agree to the negotiating partners.

In listing the conditions for the U.S. to talk to the PLO, Djerejian did not mention a renunciation of terrorism which was listed this week by a senior Administration official who briefed reporters on the Reagan-Hussein meeting. Djerejian said the U.S. position on terrorism is well known and the U.S. has taken the lead in combating international terrorism. He added that there could not be a peace process going on if terrorism existed. Djerejian also noted that Hussein said yesterday that negotiations should be conducted with Israel in a "non-belligerent manner" which the Jordanian Embassy later corrected to a "non-belligerent environment" which Djerejian implied would rule out a continuation of terrorism.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES
THE JEWS OF THE FAR EAST**

By Ben Frank

(Part Three Of A Three-Part Series)

PEKING, May 30 (JTA) -- There are Jews in the People's Republic of China. Five live in Shanghai and one in Harbin. The six receive monthly aid checks from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

In addition to these permanent residents, there are also many Jews from around the world who come to China to engage in business, the new "China traders." They can be seen in Peking, in Shanghai and in Canton. In the latter city there is usually a Passover seder every year because of the large number of Jewish business persons attending the Canton Fair.

Here, in Peking, one sees evidence of privately owned businesses, and above all, the desire for bicycles, radios, watches, tape decks, washing machines and motorcycles, all of which sell out the same day they arrive in department stores. Bernard Levin, the American Consul General in Hong Kong, who is Jewish, said that the trend is for China to look toward the West. China's top priority, he senses, is to focus on economic development.

The Attraction Of China For Jews

The new economic development which manifests itself every day is a key to understanding why Jews are involved in the China trade. One Jewish trader told this correspondent, "China is not Russia. This is not the Iron Curtain." Western influences are penetrating China's protective isolationism. An example of Jewish involvement as China traders is Lord Kadoorie of Hong Kong who on occasion meets with top Chinese government officials to discuss possible business ventures.

In addition to the economic prospects, Jews are attracted to China because anti-Semitism is foreign to the people of this country. The Chinese have always been tolerant of religion, including Judaism. Jews came late to the Far East and never in significant numbers.

But no matter how small a group, Jewish life thrived here in the ninth and tenth centuries when 1,000 Jews settled in Kaifeng. They probably came overland from India via Persia and Iraq. By the middle of the 19th century the fabled and once thriving Kaifeng Jewish community disappeared. They were completely assimilated. Over the centuries, Jews were allowed to practice their religion undisturbed. They enjoyed complete equality. China's Jewish community remained isolated and unknown to Europeans until the 17th century.

In the 1840's, with the cession of Hong Kong to Great Britain, Jews returned to China, reversing a trend from the 13th century to the middle of the 19th century during which no new Jewish communities were formed in this country. More Jews settled in China after World War I. During the years of the Nazi Holocaust in Europe, 20,000 Jewish victims of Nazism lived in Japanese-occupied Shanghai.

Jews are now visiting China in record numbers as tourists, in addition to traders and scientists involved in medicine and engineering. One Orthodox Australian Jew who travels to China several times a year and imports linens told me that he has no trouble following dietary laws here. He takes kosher frozen food into the country.

Sometimes, when he tries to explain what Judaism is, the reaction from the Chinese in a respectful way is to say, "like Kissinger." The former U.S. Secretary of State and National Security Advisor is still revered and remembered for his visit in this country of about one billion people.

Impact Of Jewish Tourists On The Chinese

Jewish tourists make an impact on the Chinese because of their sophistication and worldliness and because they far outstrip other ethnic groups visiting the country, according to Fred Kaplan of China Passage travel service in New York City, an agency which handles numerous delegations and which arranged a recent trip of Jewish journalists to China. The Chinese consider Jews to be "very clever" and cite Albert Einstein as an example.

Government expressions in the United Nations or in official pronouncements aside, there is a genuine curiosity in China about Israel. While Israel remains an unspoken word in government offices, the Chinese people know that Israel exists in the Middle East. And while newspapers are sometimes harsh on Israel, the visiting journalists were told that lately there has been a spate of rumors that all types of connections exist between Israel and China, including the sale of Israeli military equipment to the People's Republic.

The current attitude of the Chinese people toward Jews was exemplified by a Chinese official who was told by this correspondent that he was here with a group of Jewish journalists. "You are welcome," he said.

TERENCE PRITIE DEAD AT 71

LONDON, May 30 (JTA) -- Terence Pritie, one of Israel's most distinguished and gifted non-Jewish supporters in Britain, has died here of cancer. Pritie, who was 71, had spent many years as the West German correspondent and diplomatic correspondent of the Guardian newspaper when, 15 years ago, he decided to devote himself full time to presenting Israel's case to the British media.

A prolific author, whose interests embraced Germany, the Jewish people, his native Ireland and the game of cricket, his many works included biographies of Israeli Premier Levi Eshkol and West German Chancellors Konrad Adenauer and Willy Brandt.

He was particularly active in trying to combat the Arab boycott and wrote a book on this subject, co-authored with Walter Nelson, entitled "The Economic War Against the Jews." His loathing of anti-Semitism--which he first observed as a student in Nazi Germany--earned him the respect and affection of the Anglo-Jewish community.

During World War II, Pritie was mentioned in dispatches for bravery from Calais in 1940. In the same year he was captured by the Germans and made six attempts to escape from POW camps.

Born into the Anglo-Irish Protestant nobility, he devoted his energies to the very last to causes distant from his birth. Walter Nelson, another pro-Israeli publicist, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he regarded Pritie as one of the greatest friends Israel has ever had in Britain.

CORRECTION: In the story on page 4 of the May 30 JTA Daily News Bulletin on Conservative boycott of Knesset members, the first sentence of the second paragraph should have read: The action by members of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, was adopted in response ...