

Group Of U.S. Jews Meet Mubarak And Hussein: AJC CONGRESS LEADERS CONVINCED OF JORDAN'S AND EGYPT'S WISH TO BROADEN THE PEACE PROCESS WITH ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 11 (JTA) — A group of prominent American Jews has come away from meetings this week in Amman and Cairo convinced of Jordan's and Egypt's urgent wish to broaden the peace process with Israel.

The American Jews, leaders of the American Jewish Congress, reported to Premier Shimon Peres in Jerusalem today on their talks with King Hussein, President Hosni Mubarak, and their top aides.

One central theme which they heard repeatedly in the two Arab capitals, they said, was that sections of the PLO had indeed moderated their stance and the PLO should therefore "be put to the test" in a diplomatic process.

Prof. Henry Rosovsky of Harvard, one of the AJCongress group, told reporters his private feeling was that Washington should set up talks between Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Richard Murphy and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, on the clear understanding that the PLO would respond, within a set time, by explicitly recognizing Israel and accepting the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

The AJCongress group had the clear impression that PLO chief Yasir Arafat's failure to commit himself in advance to a significant move of this kind had thwarted the American effort last month to launch a U.S.-Jordanian/Palestinian dialogue.

AJC Mission Triggers Controversy

The AJC mission has already triggered controversy in Israel, and is expected to do so in the U.S. Jewish community too. Israel Radio broadcast today, without citing a source, that the AJCongress group had violated an undertaking given to the Prime Minister's Office and to the Foreign Ministry not to engage in Jordan in talks pertaining to Israel's security considerations.

The distinct impression in Jerusalem, however, is that while the Foreign Ministry, under Deputy Premier and Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir, was indeed opposed to the AJC's mission — and made its position clear through the Embassy in Washington — the Prime Minister's Office gave the mission at least a tacit nod.

Issue Of The PLO

Regarding Israeli concerns over the location of PLO headquarters units in Amman, the AJC group reported that high Jordanian leaders had offered copious assurances that the units concerned were low-level and that they were being closely monitored and controlled by the Jordanian authorities.

The group reported that Jordanian and Egyptian leaders sought to dissociate Arafat from current terror attacks against Israel. Specifically, they said, it was claimed to them that two yachts recently apprehended by the Israeli navy had not been carrying Palestinian terror squads bent on infiltrating Israel but

rather had been ferrying the Palestinians to Lebanon for innocent purposes. In a statement issued by the AJC group after their meeting with Peres, they wrote that "we believe ... Hussein ... and ... Mubarak now wish to widen the peace between Egypt and Israel to include other Arab countries. They believe in the urgency of doing so now, before forces of political and religious extremism make the task impossible."

The statement continued: "Egyptian and Jordanian officials were unanimous in their declarations that they believed that certain elements in the PLO have moderated their extremism and are prepared to live in peace with Israel if a Palestinian entity, federated with Jordan, were to become a realistic possibility. They stated that this tendency towards moderation would be greatly strengthened if the U.S. government were to open a dialogue with these elements of the PLO."

"It is in this context that Egyptian and Jordanian officials strongly endorsed the so-called Murphy meeting. In response to our skepticism that Arafat would recognize Israel and renounce terrorism as a result of such a meeting, they urged that it is time that the PLO be put to the test."

"We expressed ... our strong view that at this time the Prime Minister of Israel is prepared to go as far as any Israeli head of government can in moving towards peace. Egyptian and Jordanian officials concurred ... We urged upon them the necessity of direct face-to-face negotiations now, while this possibility exists ... We intend to encourage our own government to assist all of the parties concerned in meeting with Israel."

BREGER NAMED BY REAGAN TO HEAD INFLUENTIAL ADMINISTRATION UNIT

**He Will Be One Of The Highest
Ranking Jews In The Administration**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 (JTA) — Marshall Breger, President Reagan's special assistant for liaison with the Jewish community since December 15, 1983, has been named by Reagan to be chairman of the Administrative Conference of the U.S., a job in which he will be responsible for Administration deregulation efforts.

The White House has indicated that a successor will not be named to Breger because there are plans to reorganize the Office of Liaison, headed by Linda Chavez, from one centered on relations with various groups to issues.

Interviewed at his office in the Old Executive Office Building by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, Breger said he was "excited" about his new job which will give him the same rank as a Cabinet deputy secretary. He will be one of the highest ranking Jews in the Administration.

The Administrative Conference is the government advisory body on administrative law — the rules, hearings and programs of the federal agencies. The chairman also sits on several Cabinet councils and is head of an informal group called the Council of Independent Regulatory Agencies.

The 39-year-old Breger, an Orthodox Jew and former law professor, will continue as liaison until he is confirmed by the Senate following a hearing by the Senate

Judiciary Committee. The post he now holds has always been controversial within the Jewish community since on one hand, all Administrations have expected their liaisons to promote their policies in the Jewish community while the Jewish community looked on the liaison to speak for its views within the Administrations.

Breger said the most satisfaction he had in his job was to see the "flowering" of the strategic cooperation agreement between the U.S. and Israel and the establishment of the free trade agreement between the two countries.

Breger noted that he first brought the idea of the free trade agreement to Reagan and his National Security Advisor after it was suggested during a tour of Israel by conservatives which he led when he was a Senior Fellow at the Heritage Foundation, six months before he joined the Administration.

But, he said, his "biggest thrill" came when he heard from the Sudan that the rescue of Ethiopian Jews had begun. He said a more personal highlight came in August, 1984, when his daughter, Sarah Gabriella, was born and he had to postpone leaving for the Republican National Convention in Dallas. The President heard of it and invited Breger to go to Dallas with him aboard Air Force One.

Most Difficult Period

Breger said his most difficult period was last spring during the controversy over the President's visit to the German military cemetery at Bitburg. He said it was hard getting the Administration to understand the "deep feelings" of the Jewish community on this issue.

Breger came under heavy criticism from the Jewish community when it was learned he had tried to prevent Elie Wiesel, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, from criticizing Reagan at a White House ceremony in which the President presented Wiesel with the Congressional Medal of Freedom.

Breger was reluctant to discuss that period except to note that he had just returned from spending Passover in Israel and walked into a "maelstrom." He noted it was a case of the messenger being blamed for the message.

David Brody, Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, told the JTA that Breger was "good and effective" at his job. A spokesman for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) said Breger had done an "excellent job." Calling Breger "intelligent and dedicated," the AIPAC spokesman said he had "earned the respect of all those with whom he worked." He added, "he represented the views of American Jews to the Administration and those of the Administration to Jews."

Third Person To Hold The Post

Breger was the third person to hold the post of Jewish liaison in the Reagan Administration. When the Administration first came to office in 1981, it indicated that it did not want any liaison to various communities, but then named to the post Jacob Stein, a leading Jewish supporter of Reagan and a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Stein stayed for about a year and then resigned, to be replaced in June, 1982, by Michael Gale who had been congregational liaison for AIPAC.

When Breger was appointed, he was given a higher ranking of special assistant to the President and was also given the additional duties of liaison with the academic community.

Jewish representatives in Washington have indicated that even if a successor to Breger is not appointed, they still will be able to have contacts at the White House. Brody noted that Breger will now be free of the White House hierarchical structure and will now be free to call people there with his views who, in his present job, he might not have been able to call as freely.

JAPAN IS EAGER TO HAVE CLOSER RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 11 (JTA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was flying home today from his official visit to Japan "satisfied and optimistic," according to Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem.

Shamir met yesterday with Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone and Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, and heard from both of them that Tokyo is eager to have closer relations with Israel.

The group of Israeli business executives who accompanied Shamir on his visit have stayed on for detailed trade talks with Japanese officials and representatives of leading companies.

The Israeli troupe met with some of the top names in Japanese industry at the prestigious Kei Damien Commercial Centre. Among those present were representatives from Toyota, Mitsubishi and other major firms which have traditionally shunned direct contact with Israel for fear of losing Arab markets.

In all his numerous meetings during five days in Tokyo, Shamir stressed Israel's consistent argument that close ties with Israel, both commercial and political, need not weaken Japan's ties with the Arab states.

Nakasone said Japan was intensifying its political interest and involvement in the Middle East. "We are interested in a dialogue with both sides," he was quoted as saying by Israeli sources. Nakasone noted that Japan's markets were open and free — and Israeli companies were welcome to compete for them.

Shamir invited Abe to visit Israel, and the Japanese minister accepted "in principle."

U.S. JEWISH ORGANIZATION SPONSORS \$750,000 MERCY AIRLIFT TO MOZAMBIQUE By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, Sept. 11 (JTA) — A mercy airlift, sponsored by the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), left today with \$750,000 worth of gravely needed medical supplies to drought and starvation-ravaged Mozambique, according to an AJWS announcement here at a press conference.

"In 1984 we estimated that four million people of a population of more than 12 million were at risk of famine," explained AJWS president, Larry Simon. "More than 100,000 people have died of starvation in Mozambique in the past year," he said of the ailing country, reported by the United Nations to be one of the six African nations most devastated by drought.

"Millions will die and it is our fault," asserted Elie Wiesel, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and a member of the AJWS Board. He pointed out that "there is enough food and medicine in this country to help the sick and poor" in distant nations and "if they die, we are guilty."

This mission, inspired by Dr. Paul Epstein, a physician who was the Chief of Medicine at Central Hospital in Beira, Mozambique in 1980, will be the first major medical relief effort of the AJWS.

Last January, when Epstein returned to Mozambique after a five-year absence, he noted that "There

were hospitals and rural clinics that had no medicines whatsoever. I spoke with doctors who could do nothing at all to help the people they were treating... many of whom were dying."

Twofold Project Designed

In response to the emergency conditions in Mozambique, the AJWS designed a twofold project. Simon explained that the chartered aircraft, donated by the London-based Live-Aid Foundation, was part of the short-term plan that would distribute the antibiotics, anti-malarial and anti-parasitic drugs, supplied primarily by pharmaceutical firms, to as many of the victims as possible.

Simon emphasized that the AJWS had worked in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF to assure the speedy delivery -- most likely within a matter of days -- of the medicines, utilizing various forms of transportation such as light aircraft, truck convoys and boats.

The AJWS is also coordinating a long-term development project to meet Mozambique's basic needs, including the production of low cost latrines to prevent contaminated water and plans for two intravenous production units which will provide IVs for the entire country within two years. Simon also mentioned the goal of creating an element of self-sufficiency by working on agricultural development and incorporating women into that development. He expressed the hope of preventing a "recurring famine situation" by building longer-term community projects.

Mozambique Official Thanks American Jews

Valeriano Ferrao, Ambassador Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Mozambique, responded to the AJWS relief project: "The people of Mozambique, in their hour of need, wish to express their gratitude to the American Jewish World Service and the American Jewish community for their generous humanitarian efforts."

AJWS chairman and president of Phillips VanHeusen Corporation, Lawrence Phillips, pointed to the Ambassador's message as showing "the neutrality of the organization" as it prefers to work as "a people to people organization", primarily non-governmental, as it aims to steer clear of the political rhetoric that could "bog down the humanitarian effort."

The arrival in Mozambique of the aircraft, named "L'Chayim," meaning "To Life," coincides with the beginning of Rosh Hashanah. It is scheduled to land in Mozambique on September 15. Wiesel views the date as symbolic and believes that on these Jewish High Holidays -- days of judgement -- "we (Jews) are being judged."

While Wiesel conceded that "the enterprise should have started long ago," he noted that the first priority of Jewish organizations was to devote all their time to the Jewish cause, "but now we have learned that if one group suffers we all suffer. It's late but not too late."

Continuing, he said: "When we see pictures of children dying in the arms of their mothers, robbing us of our sleep and our right to sleep, those victims I recognize as my own brothers and sisters. As Jews we must show we have learned from the past that our suffering has produced a tremendous cry against moral numbness."

NETANYAHU: FUTURE OF NORTHERN ISRAEL LIES IN HI-TECH DEVELOPMENT

NEW YORK, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- The future of northern Israel lies in advanced technological development, according to Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations. The area has few natural resources and Israel, like Japan, must fully develop its human resources, he declared in an address to the American Friends of Haifa University here yesterday at the Friars Club.

Haifa University, Israel's newest institution of higher education and the only liberal arts college in northern Israel, is particularly important to this end, he said.

Netanyahu used the term "siliconization" to describe his vision of northern Israel as a counterpart of California's "silicon valley" where microchips and other advanced electronic components are developed and manufactured. He noted that the region is presently underpopulated by Jews and is the home of 70 percent of Israel's Arab citizens.

But, according to Netanyahu, it is a secure region. "I guarantee that there is no threat to northern Israel," he said. The north is secure because potential terrorists in Lebanon know they face "swift certain retribution" if they attack Israel or Israelis, Netanyahu stated. He added that Israel "shares with many people" a desire for and a commitment to a peaceful southern Lebanon.

Important For Israel To Remain In The UN

Netanyahu, who is marking his first anniversary as Israel's envoy to the world organization, said that although the UN has become a forum for "everyday slander and vituperation" against Israel, it is important that the Jewish State remain in the world body. For one thing, UN membership lends a country international legitimacy. For another, the UN offers Israel links with African, some Arab and other countries with which it has no formal diplomatic relations, the Ambassador said.

In that connection, he noted that he and other Israeli diplomats often are approached by their counterparts from other countries who hope to benefit from Israel's considerable influence with the U.S.

CLEMENCY FOR UNDERGROUND MEMBER

JERUSALEM, Sept. 11 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog yesterday granted clemency to Uri Maier, a member of the Jewish terrorist underground in the West Bank, who was serving a 30-month sentence. He was immediately released from jail.

Maier underwent spinal surgery recently and his medical condition was the primary factor in the decision to grant him clemency. Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, on whose recommendation Herzog acted, made it clear that this case will not set a precedent nor does it indicate any change of policy toward the Jewish underground.

Maier is the first of the more than 20 members of the underground serving sentences for crimes of violence against Arabs in the West Bank to receive clemency. He was convicted for his role in the June, 1980 car-bomb attacks on three Arab mayors.

First Case Of Its Kind For The Supreme Court: HEARING TO BEGIN IN DECEMBER ON THE REFUSAL OF THE AIR FORCE TO ALLOW A CHAPLAIN TO WEAR A SKULLCAP ON DUTY
By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Sept. 11 (JTA) — Attorneys for Rabbi Simcha Goldman reported today that they filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court challenging the refusal of the Air Force to allow Goldman, as an Air Force chaplain, to wear a skullcap while on duty.

Allen Rothenberg, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), said the case will represent the first time that the Supreme Court will be hearing a case involving a religious practice in the military establishment. The brief was filed September 3 in response to acceptance of the case by the Supreme Court last June, he said.

Dennis Rapps, COLPA executive director, said that hearings on the appeal are scheduled to begin before the Supreme Court on December 10. The Supreme Court notified the defense attorneys last June 17 that it would hear the case.

Case Is Still Valid

Although Goldman has resigned from the Air Force and is now a psychologist with a Chabad House in Los Angeles, the case is still valid because of damages Goldman allegedly suffered in lost promotions and pay increases he would have received if he had obeyed the no-yarmulke order.

Rapps said Goldman remained in the Air Force Reserves. Rapps also pointed out that, in addition to the damages issue, COLPA undertook to represent Goldman because of the religious rights issue of the case.

Rothenberg said Nathan Lewin, COLPA vice president, is representing Goldman in the Supreme Court action. A number of secular Jewish organizations, including the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, filed friend-of-the-court briefs in support of Goldman. Rothenberg said that with Lewin on the brief were David Butler, COLPA secretary, and Rapps.

Arguments In The Brief

Lewin argued in the brief that wearing a yarmulke is a religious observance that interferes with no one and imposes no burden on the military.

The brief also argued that the record in the case, which includes a description of Goldman's approximately four years of wearing a yarmulke while in uniform, showed that banning a yarmulke is not necessary for military discipline or morale as claimed by the Air Force.

The brief argued, in addition, that the military services do not have carte blanche in dealing with the constitutional liberties of military personnel and that, given the circumstances of the lack of adverse impact the yarmulke would occasion, Goldman had a constitutional right to wear the yarmulke on duty.

Goldman is an Orthodox Jew who was ordained as a rabbi in 1970. After serving for two years as a Navy chaplain, he enrolled in the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship program, taking courses in psychology at Loyola University. In September, 1977, after earning a doctorate in psychology, he entered on active duty in the Air Force, as a clinical psychologist, at March Air Force Base in California.

From the time he entered Air Force service until early 1981, Goldman kept his head covered, as he had always done. This included hours when he was on duty at the Air Force hospital.

Rothenberg said that during his entire three-and-one-half years in the Air Force, Goldman received consistently outstanding performance ratings. No complaints about his yarmulke were received, nor were there any other indications that his variance from Air Force dress restrictions had any harmful effect on his handling of his duties or on anyone else's military performance.

In April, 1981, Goldman testified as a defense witness in a court-martial wearing his yarmulke. The opposing counsel then made a complaint against him to the hospital commandant. On May 8, 1981, he was told by the commandant that by wearing a yarmulke on duty, he violated the Air Force Dress Code. He was given a formal letter of reprimand and threatened with additional sanctions, including a court-martial, if he did not stop wearing his yarmulke on duty.

Goldman promptly started a court action for injunctive relief and damages. A federal district court in Washington, D.C. entered a temporary restraining order and, after a hearing, issued on April 26, 1982, an injunction upholding Goldman's constitutional right to wear a yarmulke on duty. Goldman was awarded damages for pay lost as a result of the ban-yarmulke order.

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals reversed the district court ruling on May 8, 1984. After a COLPA petition to the appeals court was rejected, COLPA then filed an appeal from the appeals court ruling with the Supreme Court.

ABSORPTION OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS IN ISRAEL ENTERING THE SECOND STAGE By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Sept. 11 (JTA) — Some 700 Ethiopian Jewish families have now begun to enter the second stage of their absorption process in Israel and will by February be in permanent housing accommodations outside the absorption centers, according to a senior Israeli official involved in Ethiopian absorption.

The official described this development as of substantial significance inasmuch as "most of the families are still in absorption centers" since having arrived in Israel after fleeing their homes in Ethiopia in past years. More than 2,000 families remain in at least 30 absorption centers used exclusively for newly arrived Ethiopian Jews.

"Perhaps the best proof that Ethiopians are being well absorbed in Israel is that they already know where they want to go and where they want to live," said Chaim Aron, head of the Immigration and Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency and the WZO.

Aron spoke with reporters during a breakfast briefing today on recent developments in the Ethiopian Jewry absorption process, sponsored by the United Jewish Appeal and the Israel Aliya Center of North America. Aron is in the U.S. having attended the just concluded two-day meeting in Washington of the International Council of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry. The second stage of the absorption process includes moving to permanent housing which is expected to be located in areas around central cities such as Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. The first stage includes training in skills, languages, medical care and the establishment of household possessions. There are also some 2,000 Ethiopian teenagers living in Youth Aliya villages located across Israel.