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# **IDF ENGINEERS AND CIVIL DEFENSE SPECIALISTS IN MEXICO CITY TO AID IN POST-QUAKE RESCUE OPERATIONS** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) — Civil defense specialists and Israel Defense Force engineers are going to Mexico City to assist in ongoing rescue operations following the major earthquake last Thursday that devastated the heart of the Mexican capital with a death toll estimated between 3,000 and 5,000.

The first group of civil defense experts left last night. The IDF engineers departed today, taking with them not only sophisticated equipment but know-how gained in Lebanon, rescuing people buried in the rubble of buildings blasted by terrorist bombs.

Israel's action is in response to a general appeal for help from the Mexican government. Israeli amateur radio operators (hams) have already established a communication network with Jewish radio hams in Mexico. They have volunteered to pass messages between Mexico and Israel, transmitting information and inquiries among concerned citizens of both countries.

The Israeli rescue teams are also carrying communications equipment by which they will keep in touch with Israel via the Israel embassies in Mexico City and the U.S. Their reports will determine whether more men and equipment is needed.

The equipment now on the way to Mexico with the Israeli specialists includes sensory devices which can pinpoint the faintest sounds coming from beneath rubble; specially designed inflatable airbags to be used as jacks to carefully lift fallen masonry or steel girders weighing as much as 54 tons.

This equipment will enable rescuers to crawl beneath rubble to extricate survivors or the bodies of victims. The Israelis are also bringing hydraulic cutting equipment to slice through steel and concrete.

## **JDC AIDING EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS**

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA) — The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) responded today to the earthquake in Mexico, as it has in past cases of natural disaster internationally, by opening its mailbox to donations for emergency relief and by implementing an assistance program in behalf of the American Jewish community.

As with previous relief efforts — Cambodia 1980, Italy 1981, Lebanon 1982, and Ethiopia 1984 — JDC actions parallel those of Catholic, Protestant and non-sectarian agencies providing humanitarian assistance to disaster victims.

Those wishing to help may send contributions to Mexico Relief, JDC, Rm. 1914, 60 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10165.

## **ISRAEL PREPARING STRONG PROTEST TO THATCHER FOR HER INVITATION TO TWO PLO MEMBERS TO MEET WITH HER** By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Sept. 22 (JTA) — A strong official protest is expected from Israel in response to Prime

Minister Margaret Thatcher's invitation to two members of the Palestine Liberation Organization to meet with her in London as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Thatcher announced the invitation Friday, in Amman, at the end of her visit to Jordan. Israeli Premier Shimon Peres told a Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem today that he intends to send a letter to Thatcher protesting her intention to meet with the PLO men and the arms sales deal she set up with Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The joint delegation to meet with Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe here will include Jordan's Deputy Premier Abdel Wahab Al-Majali, Foreign Minister Taher Al-Masri and two Palestinians — Mohammed Milhem, former Mayor of Halhoul, whom the Israelis expelled from the West Bank in 1980, and Bishop Elia Khoury, Suffragan (Anglican) Archbishop of Jerusalem.

Milhem is a member of the 15-man PLO Executive. Khoury is a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, which Israel considers to be a PLO body.

## **A First For Western Head Of State**

Thatcher will be the first head of a Western government to meet officially with PLO members. Peres told his Cabinet that she maintains that these two men "want peace." She insisted in her announcement in Jordan that the invitation does not mean Britain recognizes the PLO. But she denied strongly that the meeting would be an empty gesture. She said it was intended to give positive support to King Hussein's peace initiative which she said was proceeding more slowly than expected.

There is some conjecture here that Thatcher's meeting with the joint delegation will lay the groundwork for a similar meeting by U.S. officials.

Peres is reported to have noted bitterly that Britain, with its Irish problem, was especially sensitive to terrorism and it was therefore all the more incomprehensible and regrettable that Mrs. Thatcher should have invited two high ranking PLO members.

## **HIGH LEVEL ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC TEAM GOING TO CAIRO TO DISCUSS TABA** By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) — Israel will dispatch a high level diplomatic team to Cairo later this week to resume talks with Egyptian officials on ways to resolve the border dispute over Taba. American officials will also be present.

An announcement said the Israeli delegation will be empowered to discuss ideas for a compromise, methods to arrange a conciliation process and the outlines of an arbitration document. But the picture was muddled by conflicting assertions from Labor Party and Likud sources. The latter stated flatly that the Israeli team would not be authorized to discuss an outline for an arbitration document. Labor sources indicated arbitration would be on the agenda.

According to highly placed sources, the decision to send a delegation to Cairo evolved at a meeting Friday morning between Premier Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Likud. Peres was joined by Defense Minister Yitzhak

Rabin and Shamir by Moshe Arens, a Minister-Without-Portfolio who often works closely with him on foreign policy matters. The decision appears to have warded off, for the time being, a head-on collision between Labor and its Likud partners in the unity coalition government. The Inner Cabinet (five Labor and five Likud ministers) was deadlocked last week over a proposal by Peres to pursue conciliation and arbitration in tandem to settle the Tabá dispute and go on to broader negotiations with Egypt on other outstanding issues.

Shamir and his Likud colleagues insist on the conciliation process over Tabá. Peres and the Labor Party are prepared to agree to Egypt's demand for binding arbitration. Peres has threatened publicly that he will not continue to preside over the unity government if its foreign policy initiatives are stymied by Likud.

The delegation going to Cairo, probably Thursday, will consist of Gen. (Res.) Avraham Tamir, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office; David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry; and a senior army officer -- not immediately named -- who will represent the defense establishment.

Most pundits here predicted the Cairo meeting would yield no substantive way out of the Tabá dispute but would buy time for the Labor-Likud coalition. Arens observed candidly on a television interview today that it had "more to do with saving the government" than resolving the dispute.

The respite may be short-lived. The Israeli team has been enjoined to bring back proposals for the Inner Cabinet to consider to make what is termed a "policy decision." This presumably will not be made for at least six weeks, after Peres and Shamir have returned from their separate journeys to the United States in connection with the 40th anniversary session of the United Nations General Assembly.

#### ETHIOPIAN JEWS STAGE PROTEST MARCH By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Chanting, "We are Jews in every way, the rabbis are racists," some 400 Ethiopian Jews marched to the Western Wall today to pray and protest against the demands by the Chief Rabbinical Council that they undergo ritual immersion, a religious conversion rite, before they can be allowed to marry.

The marchers were part of more than 1,000 Ethiopian Jewish immigrants who have been camping for over two weeks in the large square outside the Heichal Shlomo, Chief Rabbinate headquarters, to demonstrate their anger against the rabbinical decree. They consider the demand by Chief Rabbis Mordechai Eliahu (Sephardic) and Avraham Shapiro (Ashkenazic) for symbolic conversion to be a gross insult because it questions their authenticity as Jews.

The Ethiopians, who are deeply religious, arrived in Israel by secret airlift from Sudan between November, 1984 and January, 1985. They endured severe hardship and risked their lives to make the trip, a fact they point to in their bitter controversy with Israel's highest religious authorities.

Last night, leaders of the Ethiopian demonstrators met with Absorption Minister Yaacov Tzur who has been sympathetic to their grievances. They worked out what they described as a compromise formula containing several concessions, but gave no details. This was submitted to the Chief Rabbis. The latter

have summoned rabbis from all over the country to consult over the crisis. The Ethiopian demonstrators have gained considerable public support. A petition organized by Na'amat-Pioneer Women has already gathered thousands of signatures. It calls on the Chief Rabbis to recognize the Ethiopians unequivocally as Jews. Groups of artists and writers have visited the demonstrators and so have Knesset members of Mapam, Shinui and the Civil Rights Movement.

Local workers councils are sending food to the protestors who have erected a makeshift village of tents and cardboard boxes. The fire brigade hoses down the area regularly. Young Ethiopians are distributing leaflets in English to explain their case to passing tourists and the foreign news media.

#### SECURITY SITUATION IN THE WEST BANK By Gil Sedan

RAMALLAH, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- As the heightened security situation in the Administered territories appeared to ease over the weekend, the army said it was investigating a relatively large number of complaints filed by local Arab residents of harassment by Israel Defense Force soldiers.

While military sources said the findings of those investigations could be publicized early this week, they noted that attempts by the military police to verify reports in the press of mistreatment of civilians by Israeli soldiers were difficult to trace, since few Arabs dared to provide evidence.

The streets in the town of Ramallah were relatively empty last Friday -- both of soldiers and civilians. Local residents told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that this was partly because it was Friday -- the Moslem Sabbath -- but also because of the fear of many to take to the streets unless necessary.

Local residents complained of harsh treatment by IDF soldiers. Young men, the residents said, were required to present their identity cards, while standing with their legs spread and arms up against a wall. Some complained of beatings, while others said that regular security measures, which in the past were a matter of routine, have now become a matter of nuisance.

Whether those stories were true -- and there was no way to verify them Friday -- they indicated a strong feeling of frustration among the local population. They came on top of local press reports of mistreatment by soldiers of Arabs.

The army spokesman said in reaction to the reports that every complaint was being investigated, and that the soldiers were given clear instructions on how to handle the situation in the territories. The army recently took disciplinary action against several soldiers who were found guilty of mistreatment of civilians, reports said.

#### PIPE BOMBS PLACED AT SYNAGOGUE, RABBI'S HOME AND A POLITICAL PARTY By Peggy Isak Gluck

(Northern California Jewish Bulletin Staff Writer)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Jewish community groups here have joined with the mayor's office in offering rewards totaling \$20,000 for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who placed pipe bombs at a synagogue, a rabbi's home and a political party headquarters last Monday, the first day of Rosh Hashanah.

The bombs were said to have the intensity of hand grenades and "could have killed someone," according to a police department spokesman.

The Jewish Community Federation and Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, the American Jewish Congress' Northern California Division, and Mayor Dianne Feinstein's office, announced the rewards last Tuesday. Each organization and the mayor's office put up \$5,000.

"Stop the Jew Food Tax," "Death to All Zionist Jews" and "Free the People" was written on "pieces of paper wrapped around the bombs," according to Inspector Tom Dickson, the S.F. police department's liaison to the Jewish community.

#### One Bomb Exploded, Injuring Two Persons

One bomb exploded Monday at about 12:15 a.m. at the headquarters of the Humanist Party in San Francisco's Sunset District. Two party workers escaped injury in the blast, which blew out a door and broke windows. The new party claims about 10,000 members, but has no connection with the Jewish community.

The second bomb was discovered at the Horowitz Cultural Center at Congregation Beth Shalom in the city's Richmond district about 8:30 a.m. by a custodian "who went back around to the school and saw the bomb on a ledge," Dickson said. The bomb at the Center, located around the corner from the synagogue's main entrance, was discovered nearly an hour after worshippers filled the sanctuary for Rosh Hashanah services.

Police cleared a two-block area near Congregation Beth Shalom, which also included the area near Congregation Anshei Sfard, an Orthodox congregation. Neither cars nor pedestrians were allowed in the area for nearly two hours. Congregants walking to the Orthodox Anshei Sfard were rerouted around the block to reach their synagogue.

The SFPD bomb squad detonated the device, which was surrounded by "the same paper with the same words" as the bomb that had exploded earlier, Dickson said. "It was the same type of bomb as the other place, including the same timing device."

The third was discovered mid-afternoon at the home of Rabbi Jacob Traub of Orthodox Congregation Adath Israel in the city's Sunset District, where a pipe bomb was found in July. Traub's next door neighbor alerted the family to the suspicious-looking pipe.

Traub, who is Orthodox, contacted Dickson, who said he alerted the neighborhood precinct. Patrolmen from the station "evacuated Traub's neighbors on both sides and about eight houses across the street" before the bomb squad detonated the third bomb. The three bombs were sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for investigation, according to Dickson.

#### Jewish Institutions Under Police Surveillance

Meanwhile, police placed synagogues and Jewish institutions, including the JCF building which houses several organizations, under surveillance. Police officers will be "physically stationed outside all synagogues," Dickson said, adding the patrols would remain "24 hours a day through Yom Kippur." Patrols also will be passing rabbis' homes on a frequent basis.

The latest incidents are believed to be linked to two other pipe bombs found in San Francisco earlier this year, including one at Traub's congregation, Dickson said. The FBI has yet to complete

analysis of the pipe bomb found at Congregation Adath Israel in July, Dickson said, but last Monday's incidents "will probably expedite analysis this time." The SFPD was unable to solve other anti-Semitic incidents last year: the defacing of six synagogues, a Jewish day school and five Jewish businesses with anti-Semitic slogans in August, 1984; the desecration of San Francisco's monument to the Holocaust two days after its dedication in November; and a fire at the headquarters of Jewish rock impresario Bill Graham where a neo-Nazi group claimed responsibility for the blaze.

#### THOUSANDS OF ANTI-KACH AND ANTI-RACIST DEMONSTRATORS PREVENT KAHANE FROM SPEAKING AT A RALLY By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Thousands of anti-Kach and anti-racist demonstrators packed the Wallin Square in Givatayim near Tel Aviv this evening, to prevent Kach leader and Knesset member Rabbi Meir Kahane making his views heard.

The police at first refused a permit to the anti-Kach demonstrators, headed by a rare coalition of all members of the Givatayim town council, to hold a counter-demonstration simultaneously with Kahane. Later they agreed that the rally could be held at the conclusion of Kahane's address.

Kach had distributed thousands of leaflets throughout the town, asking residents to turn out in force to attend his meeting. Givatayim Mayor Yitzhak Yaron said: "We will respond to Kahane's invitation to attend-- but we won't let him be heard."

Hours before the scheduled start of the Kach meeting the square was packed with thousands of people, many of them carrying whistles, hooters and rattles and clappers usually used on Purim to drown out the name of Haman during the reading of the Megillah.

#### Heavy Police Reinforcements Present

A number of Knesset members, mostly from the left-wing segments, were among the crowd, as well as hundreds of members of leftwing and Boy Scout youth movements.

Very heavy police reinforcements estimated at well over 600, stood by with water cannons to form a protective wall between Kahane and his followers and the anti-racist demonstrators.

Kahane was pelted with eggs and tomatoes when he arrived. The windshield of his car was broken by a stone. An overseas television network cameraman also hit by a stone. Several arrests were made.

Kahane tried to speak for about half an hour, but only a score or so of his followers in the front row of the crowd could make out his words because of the noise of heckling and the sound of the noisemakers.

Spokesmen for the anti-discrimination demonstrators appeared pleased by the results. "We have struck the first blow for democracy and against Kahanism," one of them announced.

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REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated September 26, because of Yom Kippur.

## BACKGROUND REPORT THE YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- President Reagan's meetings with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak tomorrow and King Hussein of Jordan September 30 are being viewed by the Reagan Administration as an opportunity to get the stalled Middle East peace process moving.

A senior Administration official pointedly noted that the United States is committed to the goal enunciated by Arab leaders to "use this year as the year of opportunity ... to get to direct negotiations" between Israel and the Arabs.

The two Arab leaders are in the U.S. to participate in the 40th anniversary session of the United Nations General Assembly. Mubarak will address the General Assembly on Wednesday and Hussein on Friday.

### President's Personal Interest

While normal procedure has been for Secretary of State George Shultz to meet with visiting foreign leaders in New York during the General Assembly session, the Administration apparently wants the White House meetings to assure the Arab leaders of the President's personal interest in the Mideast peace process.

Shultz, who is scheduled to address the General Assembly tomorrow, plans to return to Washington after his speech for the Reagan-Mubarak visit.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir is to address the General Assembly on October 2 and Premier Shimon Peres on October 20. Both are also scheduled to meet with Reagan.

Mubarak, who arrived in Washington yesterday, is scheduled to meet Reagan after a working lunch with Vice President George Bush. Before that he will meet with Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger and discuss economic issues with Administration officials led by Treasury Secretary James Baker.

### Mubarak's Objective In The Peace Process

A senior Administration official, briefing reporters on Friday on the Mubarak visit, stressed that the Egyptian President wants to get things moving in the peace process. He noted that when Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel it did not want this to be the last step. "Egypt has every motivation to expand the process and to bring into the negotiating process the Jordanians, the Palestinians, and hopefully one of these days, the Syrians," the official said.

The present impasse is due to the fact that the U.S. does not see how the present position of Hussein will provide a "mechanism" leading to direct negotiations between Israel and a delegation of Jordanians and Palestinians, the official said. He said the goal is "not peace between the Arabs and the United States, but peace with Israel and the Arabs."

The official said the problem is not so much the proposed Palestinian delegates for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to meet with the U.S., but Jordan's insistence on an international conference for negotiations. He said while the U.S. understands the need for an "international context," it believes that an international conference will result in "political rhetoric," not negotiations.

In addition, Jordan wants the five permanent members of the UN Security Council as participants,

which would include the Soviet Union. The participation of the Soviets would add to the trouble, not lessen the trouble in getting anything started, the official said.

The official also stressed that Hussein understands that the U.S. will not meet with any members of the Palestine Liberation Organization. This is why the U.S. has held up approval of the list of Palestinians for the joint delegation submitted to Washington by Hussein.

"We are interested in getting the message out that our terms for a meeting with the PLO remains what they were as announced in 1975," the official said. "We are not going to make them any harder, or any easier."

### U.S. Won't Follow Thatcher's Move

The official indicated that the U.S. would not follow the move announced by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in Jordan Friday. She said that British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe would meet with two PLO members in London if they renounced violence and said they accepted UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. (See separate story, P.1.)

The official said that when Hussein was in Washington in May he maintained that the PLO met the U.S. conditions because its leader, Yasir Arafat, assured him that the PLO accepted the two resolutions and agreed to Israel's right to exist. But the official said that if the PLO does accept the U.S. conditions "let them say it very simply, very clearly. They have not done so. They have danced around it."

The official also stressed that one of the hindrances to progress in recent months has been the upsurge of violence in the West Bank. He reiterated Shultz's statement that while violence cannot be allowed to derail the peace process, "We just can't take seriously anyone that is pushing violence as a participant in the peace process."

The official, reiterating that the U.S. wants direct negotiations, explained that those negotiations would lead to an end to the state of war between Israel and Jordan, the obtaining of the "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," and secure recognized borders for Israel and Jordan.

The official also pointed to recent improvements in relations between Israel and Egypt and expressed the hope that the talks in which the two countries have been engaged will lead to an early settlement of the Tabá controversy and the return of the Egyptian Ambassador to Israel. (Related story, P. 1.)

### Seeking To Avoid Another AWACS Confrontation

Not mentioned is the Administration's hope that movement in the peace process can be demonstrated by the visits of Mubarak and Hussein so that the Administration can avoid a bloody battle with Congress, similar to that over the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia in 1981, over its present plans to sell arms to Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, in testifying before Senate and House subcommittees last week, stressed that the Administration plans to go ahead with sales of fighter planes and anti-aircraft systems to Jordan and to restock existing Saudi arms.

Majorities in both the Senate and House are on record as opposed to any sale to Jordan unless Amman is committed to negotiations with Israel and this is mandated in the 1986 Foreign Aid Act. Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Calif.) is prepared to introduce a joint resolution opposed to arms sales to the Saudis as soon as it is announced.