



BRITISH GOVERNMENT SCRAPS TALKS WITH TWO SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE PLO

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Oct. 14 (JTA) — Britain's independent initiative over the Arab-Israeli conflict disintegrated in total fiasco today when the government abruptly scrapped talks it was to have held with two senior members of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, called off the meeting after his two Palestinian guests, Mohammed Milhem and Bishop Elias Khoury, refused to give an unconditional renunciation of violence in pursuing the ambitions of the Palestinian people. The two PLO men were here in a joint delegation with two Jordanian ministers.

The farcical last-minute cancellation of the meeting with Howe was the latest in the series of events surrounding the Palestinian capture of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro, the murder of an American Jewish passenger, and the subsequent mid-air capture of the four hijackers.

The cancellation was received here with quiet satisfaction by Israeli Ambassador Yehuda Avner. Later he described the PLO visitors as representatives of the godfathers of international terrorism. The PLO visit had seriously strained UK-Israeli relations. But following this morning's dramatic development there is now a much better climate for the visit which Israeli Premier Shimon Peres is due to make to London early next year.

Arabs Incensed By Britain's Action

The Arab world, by contrast, is incensed by what it sees as Britain's total submission to pressure by the United States and Israel. Unless Britain moves quickly to contain the diplomatic damage, it is feared here that British citizens and property will be increasingly vulnerable to Arab terrorist action.

The two PLO men were invited to London last month by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher during her visit to Jordan. At the time, she said she had done so after receiving assurances that Milhem and Bishop Khoury were committed to peaceful methods of advancing the Palestinian cause and the renunciation of terrorism.

She maintained this position in the face of pleas by Israel that both men had been implicated in terrorist incidents. When told last week of Khoury's expulsion for smuggling explosives into Israel, she snapped back: "Then why wasn't he charged?"

Inquiry Into Foreign Office Advice Expected

In the wake of the severe embarrassment she has been caused, the Prime Minister is expected to demand a searching inquiry into the quality of the advice she and Foreign Secretary Howe have been receiving from the Foreign Office.

Thatcher is already known for her deep distrust of the Foreign Office. She blamed it for the surprise with which Britain was taken four years ago by the Argentinian invasion of the Falkland Islands. The fact that she was persuaded to follow the Foreign Office's advice on the Middle East in the last few weeks is attributed here to her close trust in Howe.

In Britain, too, the cancellation of the talks is expected to be welcomed not only in the Jewish community but among the Prime Minister's own traditional middle-of-the-road and rightwing supporters who, judging by press comment, had been most vocal in their opposition to the PLO visit.

DRAFT RESOLUTION INVITING ARAFAT TO THE UN IS WITHDRAWN BY ITS SPONSORS AFTER INTENSE LOBBYING THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 14 (JTA) — Yasir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, will not come to address the special commemorative session for the 40th anniversary of the United Nations.

This became a fact today after a draft resolution proposing that Arafat be invited to take part in the 40th anniversary commemoration was withdrawn.

The decision of the sponsors of the resolution — India, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Senegal and Yemen — to withdraw their proposal came after intense diplomatic lobbying and pressure over the weekend, especially by the United States and other Western countries. The United States, according to diplomatic sources, warned that if Arafat was invited, President Reagan would not come to address the special session.

Diplomats here today described the turn of events as a severe blow to the prestige of the PLO, which has observer status at the UN. Arafat appeared once before at a General Assembly session in November, 1974.

The announcement of the withdrawal of the draft resolution was made at the opening of the commemorative session today by General Assembly President Jaime de Pinies of Spain.

Statement Of Israel's Ambassador

After the announcement was made, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Binyamin Netanyahu, issued the following statement:

"The removal of the proposal to invite the international terror organization of the PLO and its leader, Yasir Arafat to the 40th anniversary celebration of the UN is a sign of a soberizing process in the Western world regarding the real nature of the PLO and the moral distortion which such an invitation to Arafat would have constituted. The UN would have fulfilled its real obligation by bringing the PLO and Arafat to an international court that would judge them for their terrible crimes against the Jewish people and humanity."

Diplomats here noted that Arafat, theoretically, can still be invited to the UN General Assembly to participate in the Middle East debate and the debate on the Palestinian issue after the special anniversary session ends.

Another possibility, though very remote according to the diplomats, is that the Arabs and their allies will introduce a new resolution in the next few days to invite Arafat to the special anniversary session.

Israeli sources declared today that the decision not to introduce the resolution inviting Arafat was the result of intense pressure by the U.S., by leaders of other Western countries, by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and by the President of the General Assembly.

The Assembly was scheduled to vote on the resolution Friday but because of this pressure, which included diplomatic contacts in various capitals in which Israeli diplomats participated, the decision was made to postpone the vote until Monday.

Canada Played A Leading Role

A leading force in these efforts to remove the draft resolution was Canada, according to diplomats. Canada made it clear that its Prime Minister would not participate in the anniversary session if Arafat was invited.

Canada, it was noted, has good ties with Third World countries and exerted its influence with them. Major Western European countries had contacts with Third World countries, explaining to them that to invite Arafat would in effect destroy the 40th anniversary session and would have a severe impact on the future operations of the UN and its credibility.

When Assembly President de Pinies announced today that the resolution was removed, most of the Arab countries and the sponsors of the resolution were absent from the hall. Only a few Western countries, the U.S. and Israel, were present. "There was a clear feeling of defeat for the Arabs in the General Assembly hall this morning," a top Israeli diplomat said.

The commemorative session, which opened today, will last two weeks. It will be addressed by more than 80 heads of state and governments, among them President Reagan and Israel's Premier, Shimon Peres.

MUBARAK ASSURES PERES EGYPT WILL THOROUGHLY EXAMINE SINAI TRAGEDY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 14 (JTA) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak has written to Premier Shimon Peres to assure him of Egypt's determination to thoroughly examine the tragic event in the Sinai on October 4. The message referred to the shooting by an Egyptian soldier or policeman of seven Israeli campers at Ras Burka, 40 kilometers south of Eilat. Egypt subsequently said the assailant had run amok.

In an oral message from Mubarak delivered by the Egyptian Charge D'Affaires, Mohammed Bassouni, Saturday night, Egypt's leader assured Peres, moreover, that he would personally follow the course of the investigation.

Mubarak instructed the envoy to tell Peres that Egypt's concern over the affair was no less grave than Israel's. He would acquaint Peres with the findings of the investigation, which was proceeding with urgency, Mubarak said.

Peres read out the message at yesterday's weekly Cabinet meeting and it was later released to the press. The Premier's office clearly hopes the Egyptian President's statements — so different from his initial dismissal of the affair as a small accident — would help ease the strains that have developed in relations between the two countries as a result of the killings.

Mubarak's message ended with the suggestion that all declarations tending to complicate the issue ought henceforth to be avoided.

PERES MAKES CLEAR HIS DIFFERENCES WITH SHAMIR OVER USSR PARTICIPATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 14 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres has made clear that his own position toward a

possible future role of the Soviet Union in the Middle East peace process differs sharply from the totally negative position of Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. But he flatly denied a press report that Israel has offered to withdraw from the Golan Heights if Moscow would restore diplomatic ties.

The matter was raised at yesterday's Cabinet meeting by Yosef Shapira of the religious party, Morasha, on the basis of a report in Yediot Achronot that Peres had asked World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman to convey the offer during his visit to the USSR last month. Peres said he made no such request of Bronfman nor did Bronfman take up such matters with Soviet officials.

Peres refused Shapira's request that he meet with Golan settlers who are agitated over the report, because they pounced on it without bothering to ascertain whether it was true. According to Yediot Achronot, Bronfman and his aide, Israel Singer, brought to Moscow an Israeli proposal for a phased pullback from the Golan Heights and demilitarization of the area.

Bronfman was personally attacked by Shamir for visiting the Soviet Union in an effort to ease emigration restrictions for Jews. According to the Likud leader, he was interfering in matters best left to Israel.

Shamir said in Washington last Wednesday that he would oppose an international peace conference on the Middle East with Soviet participation even if the Soviets restored diplomatic relations with Israel. Such a conference is the framework King Hussein of Jordan insists is necessary for negotiations with Israel.

Peres Spells Out His View On USSR Role

Peres was questioned by the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee last Thursday about Shamir's remarks in Washington. In response, he reiterated that if the USSR reestablished diplomatic ties with Israel it would have a role to play in future peace negotiations. He noted that while Israel will continue to oppose Hussein's proposal for a conference under the auspices of the five permanent members of the Security Council, other ideas could be examined.

If the Soviets resumed diplomatic ties they would certainly be able to play a role "and we could then discuss what precisely that role could be," Peres said. He recently sent a letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev urging a resumption of ties between the two countries regardless of their political differences.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Syria has apologized for the recent firing of a shoulder-held missile at an IDF plane flying over the Golan Heights, saying it was the unauthorized action of a junior officer acting beyond his standing orders.

The missile, fired from the demilitarized zone on the Heights from where such arms are banned, missed its target. Israel lodged a protest with the UN peacekeeping forces on the Golan Heights. Military observers welcomed the Syrian apology, saying such admissions were rare.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — West German President Richard von Weizsäcker was granted an honorary degree of doctor of philosophy by the Weizmann Institute at a brief ceremony at the Institute in Rehovot on Friday, some hours before he left for home after a four-day official visit to Israel — the first ever by a German President.

PERES TO PRESENT REAGAN WITH PROPOSALS ON HOW TO BRING JORDAN AND NON-PLO PALESTINIANS TO THE PEACE TABLE WITH ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Oct. 14 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres will make new proposals to President Reagan on how to bring Jordan and non-Palestine Liberation Organization Palestinians to the peace table with Israel, aides of the Premier told reporters here today. He will meet with Reagan in Washington later this week.

They said Peres believes the discrediting of the PLO and its discomfiture over the Achille Lauro hijack affair could be a propitious turning-point in Middle East peace efforts.

The Premier will make use of his visit to Washington to convince Administration and public opinion in the U.S. that there is a close, direct relationship between PLO leader Yasir Arafat and all of the PLO leadership with recent terrorist events in the Middle East, including the seizure of the Italian cruise ship and the murder of one of its passengers, Leon Klinghoffer, by Palestinian terrorists.

Peres has praised the U.S. interception of the four hijackers when the Egyptian airliner carrying them to freedom was forced by U.S. Navy fighter planes to land in Sicily. He called it "a landmark in the fight to eradicate terrorism" in a letter he sent to Reagan. He sent a similar letter to Secretary of State George Shultz.

Rejects A Policy Debate

At yesterday's Cabinet session, Peres rejected Likud demands for a full-scale policy debate by the Cabinet or the Knesset before his departure for the U.S. He said the positions he would present in Washington conformed to the policy guidelines of the national unity government drawn up by the Labor Party and Likud when they formed their coalition in September, 1984.

Peres' aides maintained that the guidelines allow the Premier to be flexible and forthcoming. He leaves tomorrow for Vienna to attend the meeting there of the Socialist International and then goes to Washington for meetings with Reagan and top Administration officials.

Peres is scheduled to address the 40th anniversary session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York October 21. Officials here said today he would cancel that appearance if an invitation was extended to PLO chief Arafat. The invitation was withdrawn today. (See separate story, P.1.)

Peres Letter To Reagan

Peres' letter to Reagan said: "We salute your courageous decision and decisive action. We congratulate you and the U.S. Navy on the flawless implementation: A major contribution to the international struggle against the double plague of cold-blooded murders and outright lies by both the perpetrators and their superiors. Your action is a landmark in the fight to eradicate terrorism and a shining example of your resolve."

Letter To Shultz

Peres wrote to Shultz: "Dear George, I would like to express my personal admiration and a national sense of relief at your resolve in taking this action. We admire the decision as well as the flawless implementation by the U.S. Navy flyers.

"It is only through such demonstration of determination that the bloody nature of international terrorism and its cowardly lies can be exposed and eradicated. We stand reassured by the evidence that we are together in the war against terrorism."

But if Israel-U.S. relations have become closer as a result of the capture of the Achille Lauro hijackers, an open conflict brewing between Peres and Austria's ruling Socialist Party over Israel's bombing of PLO bases in Tunisia two weeks ago has clouded the Socialist International meeting.

Former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, a deputy chairman of the Socialist International, has suggested that whoever ordered the bombing may no longer have a place in the International. Peres retorted sharply, calling Kreisky a "Jewish anti-Semite." Austrian Socialist leaders have defended Kreisky but, with a single exception, rejected the idea that Peres be ousted from the International.

SHULTZ EXPRESSES SYMPATHY OVER MURDER OF TWO ISRAELI SEAMEN IN BARCELONA

JERUSALEM, Oct. 14 (JTA) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has expressed deep sympathy and revulsion over the murder of two Israeli merchant seamen in Barcelona, Spain, last week. Israeli officials have said the two men were killed by the PLO. Their bodies, which had apparently been tortured before death, were found in an apartment in the city by Spanish police.

In a letter to Premier Shimon Peres Sunday, Shultz wrote: "Dear Shimon, I want to thank you for your message on the interception of the Achille Lauro hijackers and at the same time express my deep sympathy and revulsion at the brutal murders of two Israeli seamen in Spain. The terrorist murders of innocent citizens of both our countries must serve to strengthen our determination, which I know you share, to expose and eliminate the scourge of terrorism. I look forward to seeing you" in Washington this week.

VIOLENCE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

TEL AVIV, Oct. 14 (JTA) — Unrelated incidents of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday damaged property and inflicted minor injuries on one man, a 70-year-old Jewish merchant from Beer-sheba, Lazar Brenner.

Brenner was attacked from behind with an ax while buying paints in an Arab shop in Khan Yunis in the northern Gaza Strip. He was treated for cuts at a local hospital and sent home. His assailant was not caught. Brenner said today he would continue to shop in the Arab town because prices are lower.

A trailer serving as the temporary home of a Jewish family outside the Gush Emunim settlement of Eilon Moreh near Nablus was set on fire early yesterday morning while the family was out. Furniture and books were piled in the center of the trailer and set ablaze. In another part of the trailer the initials PLO were scrawled on the walls and floor.

A Jerusalem-to-Haifa train was stoned while passing through Battir village near Jerusalem yesterday. Windows were broken but no one was hurt.

MONTREAL (JTA) — The first World Assembly of Moroccan Jewry will take place here October 17-19, bringing together leaders of Jewish communities in Europe, North and South America, Israel and Morocco itself. Over 150 delegates, the largest number from Morocco and Israel, will take part in the conference.

D.A. HOLTZMAN AND JEWISH LEADERS RAP GAO REPORT ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

NEW YORK, Oct. 14 (JTA) — Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman and representatives of major Jewish organizations have criticized the U.S. General Accounting Office's (GAO) recent report on U.S. governmental help for Nazi war criminals' immigration to America as "painfully limited and inadequate."

A memorandum prepared by Holtzman details the failures of the GAO report and demonstrates the need for an independent commission to uncover the full extent of U.S. governmental collaboration with former Nazis after World War II. The memorandum represents the first analysis and criticism of the report.

Holtzman and the Jewish leaders have also sent a letter to Rep. Peter Rodino (D.N.J.), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, urging him to establish a commission.

"Even with its shortcomings and limited findings the GAO report confirms that U.S. intelligence agencies worked with war criminals and mass murderers, followed a bankrupt moral policy, and deliberately deceived other government agencies and the public," said Holtzman.

According to the GAO report, five out of 12 former Nazis whose cases GAO reviewed were helped to immigrate to America by U.S. government agencies. The GAO also found that U.S. intelligence agencies deceived U.S. agencies responsible for issuing visas or permitting immigration in at least two of the five cases.

Major Criticisms Of The Report

According to the Holtzman memorandum, the GAO failed to get at the full story. "The GAO report does not disclose which agencies were to blame, the officials responsible, or the names of the war criminals who were helped," said the Holtzman memorandum. "The whole story of government complicity in the bringing of Nazi murderers to the U.S. must be told. Because of the GAO's limited review of this subject, its report cannot remain the last word on this question."

The Holtzman memorandum's major criticisms of the GAO report are:

- * It reviewed only 12 cases of former Nazis who came to the U.S., when it could have reviewed thousands. The selection of cases for review was haphazard, illogical and far too constricted.

- * Investigators relied primarily on files given to the GAO by the very agencies being investigated or the former officials of these agencies. The information received from these sources seemed to be accepted without question or verification.

- * The GAO failed to examine all relevant evidence, most notably all the files and personnel of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, the only government repository of information on Nazi war criminals in this country.

- * The GAO also failed to investigate properly Project Paperclip, which brought 459 scientists and engineers from Nazi Germany to the U.S. to work on the space and military programs, and two CIA resettlement programs that aided former Nazis.

- * The GAO failed to point out the danger of bringing Nazi war criminals into the United States.

- * Missing throughout the GAO report is any real feeling of the horrendous enormity of the crimes committed by the former Nazis.

"The report's disturbing findings coupled with its serious failings point to the need for an independent commission with full subpoena power," said the Holtzman memorandum.

"A comprehensive independent investigation by an independent commission will resolve the unanswered questions and in doing so will signal to the world that collaboration with mass murderers and war criminals is intolerable," the Holtzman memo said.

"Those who would seek to engage in secret shameful acts in the future of the kind the GAO documented should know there will be no historical cover-up to shield them from public censure or criticism."

A letter supporting the Holtzman memorandum and calling for an independent commission to be created by Congress and the President was sent to Rodino. It was signed by: the World Jewish Congress; Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Harvey Friedman, national commander, and Wallace Farber, national action chairperson, Jewish War Veterans, USA; Menachem Rosenhaft, founding chairperson International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors; Ben Meed, American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors; John Ranz, president, Holocaust Survivors Association, USA; Dr. Harry Faivus, president, Generation After; Rabbi Paul Siltan, Holocaust Survivors and Friends in Pursuit of Justice; and Abraham Bayer.

FBI CONTINUES PROBE INTO BOMBING OF AN AMERICAN ARAB RIGHTS GROUP

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 14 (JTA) — The FBI is continuing its investigation of the bombing of the office of an American Arab rights group in Santa Ana, the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, Friday in which Alex Odeh, 41, the regional director on the West Coast, was killed and seven other people were injured. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

John Hoos, an FBI spokesman, said that in days prior to the bombing the group had told the FBI of harassing telephone calls. On Thursday night, Odeh, in a TV interview, defended PLO chief Yasser Arafat and said that the news media had mistakenly linked the PLO to the hijacking of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro.

Jewish organizations condemned the attack. Burton Levinson, chairman of the national executive committee of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, termed the bombing as "domestic terrorism which cannot be tolerated." Theodore Mann, president of the American Jewish Congress, condemned the attack and sent condolences and sympathies to the victims' families. He termed the attack an "inexcusable act of terrorism" and added that no political disagreement "justifies attacks on those engaged in peaceful and lawful pursuits."

In Washington, the White House, in a statement issued under the name of Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, condemned the bombing. It said: "The Administration deeply deplores this tragic event and condemns in the strongest possible terms the criminal use of violence and terrorism to achieve political ends." Speakes said that President Reagan extended his "sincere condolences" to Odeh's family.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The U.N.-affiliated International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has informed Transport Minister Haim Caru that the organization's Council will discuss a Tunisian complaint against Israel's air raid on PLO headquarters in Tunisia at its meeting in Montreal on Wednesday.