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GREECE AND ISRAEL APPEAR TO BE
MOVING TOWARD FULL DIPLOMATIC TIES

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Jan. 14 (JTA) — Greece and Israel, which do not have full diplomatic relations, may be moving in that direction. David Kimche, Director General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, concluded a series of meetings with Greek officials today with the surprise announcement that a member of the Israeli government, Minister of Tourism Moshe Sharir, has been officially invited to visit Greece.

Sharir, a Likud Liberal, will be the first Israeli minister to visit Greece in more than 20 years; the last such visit, in the early '60s, was by Abba Eban, then Minister of Education.

An even bigger surprise was Kimche's statement to the press that Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias has accepted, in principle, an invitation to visit Israel. Kimche made his announcements after a meeting with Papoulias that lasted more than four hours.

It was the first such meeting by a Greek Foreign Minister with a ranking Israeli official. Kimche described it and his other talks here as "very useful."

The last time a Greek minister — the Minister of Agriculture — visited Israel was in the autumn of 1981 during the waning days of the Conservative government that ruled Greece. No dates have been set for the Sharir or Papoulias visits but sources believe they will take place this year. The two countries will also exchange visits by delegations of their respective parliaments.

Mutual Interests Explained

Relations between Greece and Israel have been strained for years because of Greece's outspoken support of the Palestinian cause and its granting of quasi-diplomatic status to the Palestine Liberation Organization which Israel regards as a mortal enemy. Israeli interests in Greece are represented only on the Consular level.

Asked if he and the Greek Foreign Minister had discussed an elevation of diplomatic representation, Kimche said he had explained to the Greek officials that it is as much in their interests as Israel's to normalize relations. "Yet we made it clear that we are not asking for any favors."

He said it was agreed to re-activate two agreements between Israel and Greece which have been dormant, one on agriculture and one on tourism. The joint agricultural committee is due to meet in Athens in March.

Kimche said he explained to the Greek officials what Israel has been doing to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict. He said the obstacles were put up by the Arab side, notably the PLO.

When a reporter noted that Greece has asked the PLO for help to prevent terrorist activities here, Kimche observed that it was like "calling on the Mafia to preserve the law." He declined to say whether Greece and Israel would cooperate to combat terrorism. But he acknowledged that the subject was raised during his talks here.

Israel's Consul here, Yehezkel Barnea, said that normalization of relations between the two countries is still far off but there is a change for the better in the atmosphere.

Two newspapers, the Communist daily Rizospastis and the pro-government daily Eleftherotipia, quoted an anonymous government source as saying relations between Greece and Israel will improve dramatically this year. Political observers here believe the objective of Kimche's visit was to test Arab reaction to the possibility of improved relations.

Kimche is going to Helsinki before returning to Israel. Finland represents Soviet interests in Israel with which Moscow has no diplomatic relations. Asked if his trip there has anything to do with Soviet-Israeli relations, Kimche said it did not, but added, "I must admit that a lot of Israeli diplomats around the world are talking to Soviet diplomats."

MKs' RETURN TO THE TEMPLE MOUNT
SPARKS STONE-THROWING MELEE BY ANGRY
ARAB CROWD; 17 SUSPECTS ARRESTED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) — A return visit to the Temple Mount by rightwing Knesset members today touched off a stone-throwing melee which ended with the arrest of 17 suspects after police used tear gas to disperse an angry Arab crowd. The visit also triggered acrimonious exchanges in the Knesset where rightists and leftwing MKs accused each other of the incitement.

The Temple Mount in East Jerusalem is the site of the Al Aksa mosque and the Dome of the Rock (Mosque of Omar), two of the holiest shrines of the Moslem faith. A visit there last Wednesday by members of the Knesset Interior Committee headed by its chairman, Dov Shilansky of Likud, provoked a confrontation with the Moslem religious authorities in charge of the site where Moslems alone are permitted to worship.

The MKs, threatened by a crowd, were safely evacuated by police but Shilansky vowed to return to complete what he said was his committee's legitimate business — to investigate allegations that the Moslem religious authorities were allowing illegal construction at the site.

MKs Warned That 'Blood Will Be Spilled'

The return visit passed almost without incident until a Moslem leader barred the MKs from entering a building known as Solomon's Stables, the scene of last week's altercation. He warned them "blood would be spilled" if they tried to enter. The Knesseters caucused on the spot and decided, prudently, to leave. The Moslem official was incensed because one of the visitors, Tehiya MK Eliezer Waldman, demonstratively chanted prayers on the site reserved only for Moslem prayer.

Meanwhile, Arab youngsters outside the area threw rocks at police and chanted Palestinian nationalist slogans. The police fired tear gas and temporarily sealed off the entrances to the Temple Mount.

The Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem convened later today to discuss the situation. Premier Shimon Peres stressed that Israel's sovereignty over all parts of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount, was an undisputable fact.

At the same time he insisted that the regulations imposed by all Israeli governments, past and present must be observed. Those regulations, aimed at preserving order, allow the Moslem religious authority, the Waqf, autonomy over the Islamic shrines. Jews are permitted to pray only at the Western Wall, a situation that rankles ultra-nationalist Israelis.

Peres Decries Incitement Of Arabs

Peres decried the incitement of the Arab public which, he said, "was intended to destroy the atmosphere of coexistence between the communities." Tehiya MK Geula Cohen charged in the Knesset today that the latest incidents made clear that "On the Temple Mount there is a Palestinian state." Cohen, though not a member of the Interior Committee, had been invited by Shilansky to accompany it to the Temple Mount last week and today.

Yossi Sarid of the leftist Civil Rights Movement (CRM) accused Shilansky of announcing "in a planned, provocative manner" that Jews would pray on the Temple Mount. Shilansky denied he made any such announcement. He said Waldman's praying was a spontaneous act. Other rightwingers accused the CRM of inciting the mob by shouting "provocation."

Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel, a Laborite, criticized both the rightwing extremists in the Knesset and the Moslem militants. He said there was no question of Israel's sovereignty over the Temple Mount and expressed hope that a dialogue can be re-established between Israelis and Moslems.

Hillel, who had taken a dim view of Shilansky's visits to the site but was unable to prevent them, toured the Temple Mount himself yesterday accompanied by Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. They met with members of the Moslem Supreme Council, headed by Mufti Sa'ad A-Din-Alami.

Their visit was not covered by the media because the presence of cameras near the Islamic shrines was partly responsible for last week's incident.

Hillel and Kollek chastised the Moslem clerics for incitement last Wednesday. The Muezzin, who announces the hours of prayer to the faithful, used the public address system to summon a mob to defend the holy places against an "invasion by Jews." Kollek said the Mufti agreed that was wrong.

He and Hillel spoke to reporters afterwards. The Knesset speaker dismissed complaints by Jewish activists that the Moslem authorities were allowing illegal construction. He said all he saw was reconstruction of certain buildings badly in need of it, and this he welcomed.

17 WEST BANKS ARABS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH LAND SALES FRAUD By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- Seventeen West Bank Arabs, some of them local officials, were arrested yesterday in connection with a major land sales fraud now before the Israeli courts. One of the detainees is reportedly implicated in the murder of Arab land dealer Ahmad Odde, a prosecution witness in the trial underway at the Tel Aviv District Court.

The arrests followed six months of police investigation which produced evidence that the suspects were involved in the illegal acquisition of land in the territory to sell to Jewish contractors. Two

former aides of Deputy Defense Minister Michael Dekel, a Likud politician, were arrested last month for allegedly taking bribes to furnish forged documents aimed at defrauding land buyers.

Among those arrested yesterday were three Arab policemen, two mukhtars (village leaders), a clerk at the Kalkilya court, a notary public and local land dealers.

Ten West Bank Arabs arrested six months ago were convicted and sentenced on bribery charges in connection with illegal land sales. They included several local judges and lawyers. Their trial led to the police investigation that exposed the latest land fraud scandal.

TALKS ON TABA EXPECTED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK; PERES-MUBARAK SUMMIT SEEN AS LIKELY IN FEBRUARY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) -- The Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office, Avraham Tamir, is expected to go to Cairo this week for initial talks on drafting the arbitration compromise on Taba and also, it is hoped here, on setting up a summit meeting between Premier Shimon Peres and President Hosni Mubarak.

Despite cautious statements by Egyptian officials on the imminence of a summit, Israeli sources close to the Prime Minister believe a meeting between the two leaders is now likely in February.

Yesterday, the Israeli Inner Cabinet resolved to accept in principle that the Taba border dispute between Israel and Egypt be submitted to binding international arbitration as part of a basket agreement to improve bilateral ties between the two countries.

In a subsequent telephone conversation, Mubarak and Peres are reported to have mentioned the idea of a meeting between them, and both of them were reportedly positive on this.

Within the Israeli political community, meanwhile, the two major parties have been vying over whose victory the Inner Cabinet decision was. Likud Ministers, led by Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir, assert that their list of amendments were incorporated into Peres' original proposal to the Cabinet, and therefore the final outcome was substantially improved.

But on the Labor side, the argument is that the amendments were minor and that what chiefly mattered was the Likud's acceptance -- after more than a year of stonewalling -- of the principle that Taba's sovereignty be settled by arbitration. The Likud had insisted that the issue be settled by conciliation, with arbitration to be resorted to only if conciliation failed.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A factory worker from a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip won a record \$360,000 in the soccer pools, the first Palestinian to win the top prize. Salem Barbah, 36, a father of three, was the only person to pick correctly the 13 winning teams in last Saturday's league games, pool officials announced. Barbah works in a plastics factory in Jaffa and earns \$400 a month.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) -- The Security Council, which met here Monday to discuss Lebanon's complaint against Israel, decided to postpone the debate and reconvene Wednesday. According to diplomats here, Lebanon requested the delay to try to modify the anti-Israeli draft resolution circulated here Monday, to avoid a U.S. veto.

MILWAUKEE'S FIRST EQUAL ACCESS CONFLICT ENDS AMICABLY

By Andy Muchin

News Editor of The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 14 (JTA) — The first known local conflict over noncurricular religious activity in a public secondary school has ended with all sides apparently satisfied.

It all began last September, when a Jewish woman in suburban Mequon, Wisc., complained to the principal of Homestead High School there that a group of Christian students studying Bible at the school after classes ended was in violation of the Equal Access Act of 1984.

The Act mandates that a public secondary school must either permit all noncurriculum-related student groups — including religious ones — to meet in the school during "noncurricular time" and under certain conditions, or prohibit all such meetings.

The group, Christians in Action (CIA), claims a membership of 20-30 students with a faculty adviser. It has met weekly since September 1984 to study the New Testament and hear Christian music and guest speakers. It will continue to meet as long as it adheres to the interpretation of Equal Access agreed to verbally last month by the Milwaukee Jewish Council and the Mequon-Thiensville School District president, David Hase.

Elements In The Agreement

This agreement followed a series of meetings involving school administrators, Council officials, group adviser Jerre Allen, and the woman who complained. The interpretation agreed to, according to Mark Kohlenberg of the Council, is:

- * That the group no longer be listed in the school's yearbook. The listing implies group affiliation with the school, Hase said the listing in last year's yearbook "slipped through the cracks."

- * That announcements of group meetings be omitted from the student newspaper. Again, this implies affiliation with the school. Moreover, the student newspaper, The Spectrum, published a brief feature article about the CIA last November 8. The school principal, Dr. John Box, said he has instructed the advisers of both publications to omit information about the CIA.

- * That the faculty adviser serve only in a custodial role. Adviser Allen said that he only watches student activities because "the school wants an adult present at every club activity" and that the students asked him to do so. According to Box and Hase, Allen now understands his role.

- * That outside speakers not be used regularly, nor proselytize. Hase said it would be safest not to invite outside speakers at all. Box said none would be invited. Allen said he agreed only that clerics would not be invited.

- * That no retribution, formal or informal, be made against the woman who complained or her family.

* Hase said Box would enforce the agreement. "I've checked since (the agreement) and I'll check again," Box said. Allen said the students "feel very strongly about staying within the law."

Kohlenberg said the Council will continue to monitor the situation. "We nipped it in the bud," he said. "Equal access is a watered down version of school prayer legislation." He also complained that

the law is vaguely worded, and Hase agreed. "I certainly would say that it is a vaguely written law and a difficult law to administer," Hase said, "and I think that anyone who confronts it has got to be very careful that all the interests affected ought to be respected."

Indeed, Box said he never thought the CIA was in violation of the law or intended to be. "It's a matter of how you want to interpret the language," he said. Regardless, he said he was willing to accept the new, "more conservative" course.

Box said no other noncurricular organization has asked to meet in Homestead High School under Equal Access provisions, and said he hasn't heard of a similar group at any other local school. Kohlenberg said that the Homestead case was the first time the Council had encountered an Equal Access complaint.

WZO GETS SUPPORT FROM PERES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 14 (JTA) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres has issued a strong statement of support for the World Zionist Organization following a series of meetings between top Cabinet ministers and WZO executive members.

The statement has been very warmly welcomed by the WZO leadership which sees it as an expression of support for the ongoing Herzlia process, whereby the WZO has undertaken a structural reform of its organization and has promised greater democratization of its institutions.

The statement, issued here this weekend, said that the government recognizes the WZO to be the main catalyst in the relations between Israel and the diaspora, and that it places great importance on the organization's activities.

The Prime Minister also announced, in his statement, that the government intends to increase the cooperation and coordination between it and the WZO.

The meetings followed a certain discord within the Jewish Agency against the background of disgruntlement by some non-Zionist fund-raising members. But there is awareness within the WZO of calls for reform and of the need for the Herzlia process.

The WZO is awaiting with trepidation the report, due out this week, on the emissary institution. The report, by a commission under former Supreme Court Justice Moshe Landau, is expected to be a profound reconsideration of the entire emissary organization.

In the statement, Peres and WZO Executive Chairman Leon Dulzin echoed this awareness and called on all Zionist organizations to undergo deep ideological self-examination in order to pave the way for the future of the Zionist movement.

The Prime Minister mentioned the challenges that the Zionist movement faces today, namely, aliya, the need to intensify the awareness that Israel is the center of the Jewish people, and the improvement of both Jewish and Zionist education.

Peres emphasized the importance of the Jewish Agency which works together with the Zionist movement, the Jewish communities abroad and the various appeals, and he noted the special status accorded to them by the laws of the State.

REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated January 20, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a postal holiday.

HUNGARY PAYS AN UNPRECEDENTED OFFICIAL TRIBUTE TO WALLENBERG

By Maurice Samuelson

(Editor's note: Friday, January 17, is the 41st anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's abduction by the Russians from Budapest to Moscow. In the absence of hard evidence that he is dead, his family continues to maintain that he might still be alive in the Soviet Union, aged 73.)

LONDON, Jan. 14 (JTA) — The Hungarian government has paid an unprecedented official tribute here to Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat jailed by the Soviet Union after saving thousands of Jews during World War II.

It has also hinted that it is ready to rehabilitate a national monument to Wallenberg erected in Hungary after the war, at a time when Wallenberg, declared dead by the Russians, was actually a secret prisoner in Moscow.

The 18-foot-high statue, by sculptor Pal Patzay, was commissioned by Jewish bankers, in gratitude to their young Swedish savior. It depicted a man wrestling with a snake. A medallion of Wallenberg's profile and an inscription in his honor were fixed to its plinth.

It disappeared in 1949 on the night before it was to have been unveiled in Budapest, and was quietly re-erected four years later at a pharmaceutical works in the town of Debrecen. Stripped of all reference to Wallenberg, it now stood as a vague symbol of man's fight against disease.

An Acknowledgement By Hungarian Envoy

This week, however, the Hungarian Ambassador to Britain, Dr. Matyas Domokos, declared that his country honors the memory of Wallenberg and affirmed that the anonymous statue is really a tribute to the missing Swede.

His statement, in a letter on behalf of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, is an acknowledgement of the widespread international interest evoked by the Wallenberg affair in recent years. It also reveals Hungary's embarrassment over the shoddy fate of Wallenberg himself in Soviet hands.

The Ambassador's letter was addressed to actress Pamela Mason, a member of the British Wallenberg Committee, who had written about the statue to the Hungarian leader Janos Kadar on the occasion of his recent official visit to Britain.

At the British Wallenberg Committee's request, the issue was also raised informally with senior Hungarian Communist officials by British delegates to the recent East-West cultural forum in Budapest.

U.S. Envoy Lays Wreath In Swede's Honor

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned that during the forum, United States Ambassador Walter Stoessel laid a wreath in Wallenberg's honor in the Budapest street which bears his name. Three years ago Wallenberg was named an honorary U.S. citizen.

Budapest's Wallenberg Street, in the area where many Jews were saved by the Swedes, was given its name immediately after the liberation of the city from the Nazis. Unlike the statue with Wallenberg, the street was left intact.

The first sign of Hungary's official uneasiness about the fate of the statue appeared two years ago in a lengthy article in the official Hungarian maga-

zine, *Historika*, by Janos Poto. It recounted the origin of the statue, and how it disappeared from Budapest's Saint Stephens Park. Without delving into the fate of Wallenberg himself, the author noted caustically that "the same thing happened to the statue as to its inspirer — it disappeared." He also expressed shock at its use for a completely different purpose.

Poto disclosed, too, that two more copies of the monument later appeared in other places — outside a Budapest clinic and in faraway Indonesia — in both cases without any clue to the sculptor's original purpose.

CJC URGES WALLENBERG SABBATH

MONTREAL, Jan. 14 (JTA) — The National Department of Religious Affairs of the Canadian Jewish Congress has called upon all Canadian synagogues to reflect, in Sabbath services on January 18, on the heroism and the uncertain fate of Raoul Wallenberg. It urged people of all faiths "to contemplate this man's heroic actions on behalf of humanity." Last month he was granted honorary Canadian citizenship, Canada's first honorary citizen.

NEW FUNDAMENTALIST GROUP SCORED BY TWO MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

NEW YORK, Jan. 14 (JTA) — The announcement earlier this month by the Rev. Jerry Falwell that his Moral Majority is being conjoined to form a new Liberty Federation which will engage in avowedly political issues "is both revealing and cause for deep concern," it was stated here jointly by the American Jewish Congress and the Women's American Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training.

The two organizations sponsored an all-day convocation here yesterday called to counteract "the fundamentalist new right threat to religious freedom and women's rights."

The joint statement by the AJCongress and Women's American ORT warned against any assumption that Liberty Federation, a "cosmetic face-lift," represents "a basic change in the character or philosophy of the fundamentalist right. We have no reason to believe that the Rev. Falwell and his followers will lessen the intensity of their opposition to individual freedom and pluralism in American society."

'A Perturbing Qualitative Change'

On the contrary, the statement continued, "the dangerous mix of ultra-right politics and fundamentalist dogma powering the Moral Majority, and presumably its successor, Liberty Federation, constitutes a perturbing qualitative change, and represents a further dramatic escalation of the threats to pluralism and to the climate of tolerance in our nation."

"While we recognize that the Rev. Falwell is free to speak out on any issue he wishes and to organize any lawful movement he feels is necessary to further his political goals, we will continue vigorously to oppose those views and his activities which, we feel, represent an acute danger to the decency, compassion and tolerance that have been hallmarks of our democratic society."

According to Harry Covert, a spokesman for Falwell, the change in the organization was made "so we can speak out on a broader range of issues," including national defense and foreign policy. He said this was part of the organization's effort to gear up for greater involvement in politics.