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## SPACE SHUTTLE TRAGEDY

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Jan. 28 (JTA) — The explosion of the space shuttle Challenger about a minute after launching here this morning is believed to have taken the lives of all seven aboard, including Dr. Judith Resnick, the first Jewish woman astronaut.

The apparent victims of the worst disaster in the history of the American space program were U.S. Navy Commander Francis Scobee, commander of the shuttle; Michael Smith, pilot; Ellison Onizuka, Ron McNair and Resnick, all mission specialists; and Greg Jarvis a specialist of the Hughes Aircraft Co.

In addition, there was one civilian passenger, Christa McAuliffe, a New Hampshire public school teacher who was to have broadcast two 15-minute lessons to school children all over the U.S. and Canada while the Challenger was in orbit.

The 100-ton, multi-million dollar spacecraft lifted off at 11:38 a.m. local time today in what officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) said was a "perfect launch." About a minute later it burst into a fireball, and smoking debris plunged into the Atlantic about nine miles down-range. Rescue ships rushed to the scene but as of this afternoon there was little hope of any survivors.

## Second Woman To Go Into Space

In June, 1984, Resnick, then 35, became the second woman to go into space. She and five male crewmembers of the Orbiter Discovery were on a seven-day scientific mission. Born in Cleveland, she grew up in Akron, Ohio and earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at Carnegie-Mellon University in 1970. She was subsequently employed as a design engineer by RCA and in that capacity worked on several NASA projects.

From 1974-77, Resnick was a biomedical engineer and staff fellow in the Laboratory of Neurophysiology at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. In 1977 she received a doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Maryland.

Before her selection by NASA for space flight training in 1978, she was a senior systems engineer in product development with the Xerox Corp. at El Segundo, Calif. After completing her year's training as an astronaut, she worked on projects related to development of Orbiter Discovery.

Resnick's paternal grandparents came from Kiev. They left Russia in the late 1920's and settled in Palestine before coming to the U.S. Her father attended a yeshiva in Palestine.

Her family moved to Cleveland where her grandfather, Jacob, was a shoet, and her grandmother, Anna, worked for Jewish organizations. Her father, Dr. Marvin Resnick, was active in many Jewish causes. Resnick attended Hebrew school in Cleveland and was Bat Mitzvah there.

The disaster that overtook space shuttle Challenger today followed a series of cancelled launchings due partly to technical problems and partly to weather conditions. There were no immediate indications as to what caused the spacecraft to explode.

## MUBARAK TALKS TOUGH ON MIDEAST ISSUES; SAYS THE PLO IS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

By Edwin Eytan

STRASBOURG, Jan. 28 (JTA) — President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, addressing the European Parliament here today, took a tough stance on Middle East issues. He called for an international conference with participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and stressed several times in his speech to the 21-nation assembly that in his view, the PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

His speech contained no references to the peace process with Israel or to his predecessor, the late President Anwar Sadat, who initiated it in 1977. It was broadcast live over Egyptian Radio.

Egyptian officials here refused to comment on press reports that Mubarak had been scheduled to meet with Israeli Premier Shimon Peres, who is presently visiting West Germany. They were also mum on the meeting Mubarak held in Cairo Sunday with Ezer Weizman, a member of Peres' Cabinet.

In his address, Mubarak said Western Europe could and should play an active role in helping prepare an international peace conference on the Middle East. He said the conference should be convened without preconditions and should be based "on the equality of rights between the two sides and the necessity to establish an equilibrium between Israel's right to exist and the Palestinians' right to self-determination."

Mubarak also called for an international conference on means to combat terrorism. He urged the international community to adopt stringent laws on the subject. But he condemned as "a grave mistake the tendency of accusing the Palestinian people of terrorism or to accuse certain religious sects." He was apparently referring to the Shiite Moslems, who are believed responsible for most of the terrorist acts connected with the ongoing crisis in Lebanon.

## MUBARAK'S AIDES SAID TO HAVE REBUFFED MUBARAK-PERES MEETING

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 28 (JTA) — German diplomats attempted without success to arrange a meeting between President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Israeli Premier Shimon Peres, both of whom are in Europe, sources here disclosed today. They said the efforts were rebuffed by Mubarak's aides.

Peres is currently visiting West Germany. Mubarak was in Strasbourg today to address the European Parliament. He will confer with President Francois Mitterrand in Paris tomorrow and will visit Bonn on Thursday, the day after Peres returns to Israel.

Uri Savir, a spokesman for Peres, ruled out a meeting with Mubarak on German soil. He said Israel was interested in a summit meeting, but only in the Middle East. This morning, Peres received a detailed report on his Cabinet colleague Ezer Weizman's meeting with Mubarak in Cairo Sunday.

The Premier told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that there was some progress in relations with Egypt but declined to elaborate. Weizman, a Minister-Without-Portfolio, went to Cairo reportedly to persuade Mubarak

of the urgency to hold a summit meeting with Peres before the soured relations between Israel and Egypt deteriorate further. His mission was unannounced but had the approval of Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the leader of Likud. Weizman was joined by the Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, Gen. (Res.) Avraham Tamir, who had been accompanying Peres on his European tour but flew back to the Middle East Sunday to participate in the Cairo meeting.

Weizman's trip drew the ire of Likud hardliners, who criticized Shamir for approving it. Referring to the critics today, Peres said, "It is good that he (Weizman) went to Egypt and it is good that talks are being held. In some ways people in Israel are out of tune with the developments in Egypt."

#### PERES MEETS WITH BUNDESTAG COMMITTEE

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres of Israel met with the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee today to explain Israel's position on the Palestinian issue. He said he was still waiting for a reply to his latest initiative to open negotiations with Jordan. Some members of the committee were highly critical of Israel's refusal to engage in talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Peres had breakfast today with President Richard von Weizsaecker and had meetings later with Defense Minister Manfred Woerner and Economics Minister Martin Bangemann. Israel and West Germany are cooperating to some extent in research for arms production, and Israel sells certain military equipment to Bonn.

But attention here was focussed on the meeting Peres will have this evening with members of the opposition Green Party, which has largely sided with the Arabs and has been accused of harboring anti-Semitic elements.

The meeting was initiated by the Green's Bundestag faction which sent a letter to the Israel Embassy expressing great interest in a first-hand report from Peres on Israel's position with respect to the Palestinian issue. The Green Party delegation to meet Peres will be headed by Juergen Reents, the man who led a group of Green Party members on a visit to Israel in December, 1984.

Meanwhile, some Greens in West Berlin are planning to demonstrate against Peres when he visits the divided city tomorrow. But a majority of the party there will refrain for fear of advancing their image as an anti-Jewish group. The unofficial press organ of the Greens, the Berlin daily *Taz*, suggested today that Israel and West Germany sign a military cooperation treaty. Bonn and Israel promptly denied there was any substance to such speculation.

#### SHAMIR: THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES IN THE GOVERNMENT ON THE PEACE PROCESS

By David Friedman

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said today there are no differences in the coalition government on the peace process.

"While we may differ on tactics, there is full agreement on the goal and principle of peace," he told the opening of the eighth plenary assembly of the World Jewish Congress at the Jerusalem Hilton. "The problem is not between Labor and the Likud, but between us and Egypt, and us and Jordan."

Shamir, who is scheduled to replace Shimon Peres as Premier in October, criticized Egypt for not keeping its commitments under the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, including not returning its Ambassador to Israel.

#### The Trouble With Jordan

But his major remarks on the peace process were aimed at Jordan, noting that every Israeli government has asked King Hussein to engage in negotiations.

"Now it looks like his involvement with Syria, on one hand, and the PLO, on the other, limits his freedom of movement and action," Shamir said.

"It is an undeniable fact that the PLO is an enemy of peace with Israel and, therefore, any cooperation with the PLO, any dependence on the PLO, any commitment to the PLO will only reduce the chances of peace."

Shamir said that the only way to achieve peace is through direct negotiations. "There is no need for new forums and umbrellas," he declared. "We can meet face to face and talk directly to each other."

Shamir made no mention of Peres' remarks during his European visit that some progress was being made and that Israel would accept an international forum leading to direct negotiations. But Peres stressed that if the Soviet Union was to participate, it must first restore diplomatic relations with Israel.

However, Shamir said today that Israel has no evidence that Moscow plans to change its policy toward Israel. "In fact, they continually assure the Arab governments that they have no intention of doing so," he said.

#### A More Encouraging Assessment

A more encouraging assessment of the peace process was presented last night to the American delegates to the assembly by U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, who said he was optimistic. He said that he has received reports that the Europeans, especially Britain, were impressed by what they heard from Peres.

Another speaker today was Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini, who resigned from the Italian Cabinet after his government released Muhammad Abbas, mastermind of the Achille Lauro hijacking. He said he acted for moral, not political reasons adding "I am ready to do it again, on all the occasions when it might be necessary."

Spadolini, who stressed he was not representing the Italian government today, said: "It is necessary to prevent international terrorism from reaching its objective, which is to stop the peace process in the Middle East, the signs of which we begin to see."

He said the friends of the Jewish people want conditions to be achieved to make it "possible for Israel to live in peace and harmony with Israel's neighbors."

The Assembly, attended by some 800 people from 60 countries, marks the 50th anniversary of the World Jewish Congress. Guido Goldmann, son of Nahum Goldmann, spoke about his father, who along with Rabbi Stephen Wise, founded the WJC. Goldman succeeded Wise as WJC president, a post he held for many years.

#### SMOOTHER SAILING FOR SHIPYARD WORKERS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28 (JTA) -- The Ministerial Economic Committee decided today to keep all 650 employees of the financially ailing Haifa Shipyards on the payroll pending the report of a special committee of experts on plans to re-organize the government-owned shipbuilding and repair facility on Haifa Bay and make it economically viable.

The workers were ordered on a payless furlough of indefinite duration last week by the government-appointed receiver, Amiram Blum. The order was upheld by a Jerusalem district court, and the workers barricaded themselves behind the shipyard gates. Histadrut announced yesterday that it would call a brief general strike in the Haifa area next week if the furloughed employees were not reinstated, to be followed by a call for a nationwide general strike if necessary.

Blum said yesterday that he was authorized by the courts to re-employ about 60 of the workers to carry out repairs on a Zim Lines freighter and on a ship of the U.S. Sixth Fleet. The Shipyards had been losing \$600,000 a month for lack of construction and repair orders.

**MURPHY: ISRAEL, JORDAN HAVE NARROWED GAP ON HOW TO START TALKS, BUT HUSSEIN WON'T MOVE WITHOUT PLO OKAY**  
By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (JTA) — Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told a Congressional subcommittee today that while Israel and Jordan have narrowed the gap on how to reach the negotiating table, Jordan's King Hussein will not move into negotiations without "acquiescence" from the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Murphy, who appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, urged the approval of plans to sell Jordan a \$1.9 billion arms package that faces continued opposition in both Houses of Congress. A resolution passed by the House and Senate last fall barred the sale until March 1, unless "direct and meaningful peace negotiations between Israel and Jordan are underway."

With the deadline approaching and Congress scheduled for a week-long recess next month, Murphy was in Europe last week for separate meetings with King Hussein and Premier Shimon Peres of Israel, both of whom were there on visits. Peres, who is facing the possibility of a change of government in Israel, has also been pushing for a new peace initiative.

Maintaining that "progress is being made" on achieving a formula for negotiations, Murphy re-stated the Administration's contention that the arms package for Jordan is necessary to keep up the momentum in the peace process, and urged Congress to avoid any "disruption at this delicate stage."

Although he declined to offer details of his meetings in Europe, Murphy promised there will be "no sleight of hand, no parliamentary tricks on the part of the Administration" in dealing with the arms sales issue as the March deadline approaches.

If no resolution of disapproval is passed before March 1, the President would be permitted to proceed with the sale.

#### Strong Opposition To Jordan Arms Sale

But members of the subcommittee indicated that opposition remains strong. Larry Smith (D. Fla.) said he would seek to push through a resolution reversing conditions set by the resolution passed last fall.

He might have been referring to an apparent effort on the part of some to approve an extension of the March deadline, but with terms reversed:

rather than allow the sale to go through by a new proposed deadline, the legislation would provide for an automatic disapproval of the sale unless Congress decided otherwise in the interim.

There had been suggestions that Hussein was on the verge of abandoning his PLO partner, Yasir Arafat, unless the latter agrees to accept United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which implicitly recognize Israel.

But Murphy acknowledged in response to a question from Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. N.Y.) that Hussein still regards the PLO's "acquiescence" in a negotiations formula as "the minimum" to enable the Jordanian ruler to move into peace talks with Israel. Murphy also categorically denied a UPI report that a U.S. envoy met with Arafat in Amman today.

In response to persistent questioning about the Syrian threat to Jordan which the Administration has maintained makes the arms sale especially important, Murphy said the possibility of bringing Damascus into the peace process does not discount a continued threat to Jordan from the north.

**GERMAN OFFICIAL SUGGESTS KILLING RICH JEWS TO BALANCE LOCAL BUDGET**  
By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 28 (JTA) — A West German official's public suggestion that rich Jews ought to be killed to help balance the budget has triggered outrage here for the second time this month over anti-Semitic remarks by politicians linked to Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) coalition.

Wilderich Freiherr Von Mierbach Graf Von Spee, Mayor of Korschenbroich, in the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, admitted that he told the town council's budget committee that a few rich Jews should be slain in order to get the budget balanced. Korschenbroich has a population of about 27,000. It was not immediately known if any Jews live there.

Von Mierbach apologized for his remark but added that talk about killing rich Jews was widely used in the past when discussing financial matters, an explanation that stunned observers. He did not say whether he was referring to the Nazi era or the more recent past.

The opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) immediately called on the Mayor to resign. The Jewish community in Dusseldorf announced it has filed suit against him for racial incitement. Von Mierbach, a member of the CDU, made the remark at a meeting on January 16. But the local newspaper, owned by a CDU activist, still has not published it.

Outrage was expressed earlier this month when Hermann Felner, a ranking member of the Christian Social Union, the CDU's Bavarian sister party, stated publicly that Jews who seek reparations from German firms that used them as slave laborers during World War II created the impression that "Jews are quick to show up when money jingles in German cashboxes."

Felner, too, apologized both in the Bundestag and in a formal statement to the Jewish community. But the matter resurfaced when the weekly Der Spiegel quoted Chancellor Kohl as saying that Felner's remark was not anti-Semitic and that it reflected the attitude of most Germans. A government spokesman has denied the Der Spiegel story. The weekly stood by its account.

Israeli Premier Shimon Peres, presently visiting West Germany, has refused to comment. Aides said he did not read Der Spiegel and had no intention of raising the matter during his talks in Bonn.

# NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE PASSES RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE UN ZIONISM EQUALS RACISM RESOLUTION

ALBANY, N.Y., Jan. 28 (JTA) — A resolution sponsored by Assemblyman Arthur Kremer (D. Long Beach) unanimously condemning the 1975 United Nations resolution that "Zionism equals racism" has been adopted by both houses of the state legislature. New York is the second state in the nation to adopt this resolution.

"By wrongly equating Zionism with racism, UN Resolution 3379 encouraged the expression of anti-Semitism and is an offense to all citizens of a democratic society," said Kremer. "In the 10 years since its passage, it has given an unwarranted legitimacy to those who want to attack Israel or Jews in other countries. It is time that the legislature of the country's most important state come out forcefully against it."

The measure, which was co-sponsored by Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs (D. Brooklyn) and 40 other legislators, said:

"This legislative body soundly denounces and condemns any linkage between Zionism and racism; considers United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379 to be a permanent smear upon the reputation of the United Nations and to be totally inconsistent with that organization's declared purposes and principles; unequivocally states that the premise of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379 which equates Zionism with racism is itself clearly a form of bigotry; and formally repudiates United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379, and calls upon the Parliaments of all countries which value freedom and democracy to do the same."

The resolution passed in the Senate during a special session last month was sponsored by Senators Manfred Ohrenstein (D. Manhattan) and James Lack (R-C East Northport). Last year the U.S. Congress also condemned Resolution 3379.

## AUSCHWITZ EXHIBITION AT THE UN EXTENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL MONTH

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 28 (JTA) — The exhibition "Auschwitz — A Crime Against Mankind," on display in the visitors' lobby of the United Nations, will be open to the public for an additional month and will not close on January 31 as originally planned, but on February 28.

The announcement was made yesterday by Prof. Maurice Goldstein, president of the International Auschwitz Committee, which organized the exhibition together with the Auschwitz State Museum in Poland. The UN display was sponsored by the UN Center for Human Rights.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Goldstein said that the UN agreed to the extension of the exhibition at the request of the International Auschwitz Committee. According to Goldstein, about 40,000 people have already visited the exhibition and an estimated 30,000 more visitors will view it by February 28.

Goldstein said that negotiations are underway to present the exhibition in other cities throughout the U.S. The exhibition, he added, will also be shown in Vienna, Paris and Brussels later this year.

More than 100 Holocaust survivors gathered last night in the UN visitors' lobby to mark the 41st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

## REPORT THAT PRESIDENTS OF URUGUAY AND ARGENTINA PLAN TO VISIT ISRAEL

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Jan. 28 (JTA) — The chiefs of state of both Argentina and Uruguay will visit Israel this year, an indication of improved relations between Israel and Latin America, according to Hanan Olamy, head of the Latin American Department of Israel's Foreign Ministry, it was reported yesterday in New York's mass circulation Spanish-language newspaper, *El Diario/La Prensa*.

Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti plans an official visit to Israel within the next four months, and Argentine President Raul Alfonsín will also visit at some time during the coming year, Olamy said.

The New York-based Spanish-language daily added that Olamy also told reporters that two other Uruguayan officials — Vice President Enrique Tarigo and Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias — are to arrive in Israel this week in separate visits. They are the highest level officials from this South American country to visit Israel in more than a decade.

Both Uruguay and Argentina have undergone transformation from military to civilian rule within the last two years.

Olamy said he anticipates that Israel's relations with the Hispanic world will improve, following last week's establishment of diplomatic relations with Spain, *El Diario/La Prensa* reported.

## A UNIQUE PROJECT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28 (JTA) — A new transportation system will cut the cost of sending potash from the Dead Sea to Ashdod port by more than \$5 million.

An 18-kilometer conveyor belt, now under construction, will haul the potash, Israel's principal raw material export, from the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, up to a railway depot in the Negev hills.

Most of the 1.7 million tons exported annually is now trucked over mountainous roads to the depot, where it is loaded onto the railroad for the last leg of its journey to Ashdod on the Mediterranean coast. The Dead Sea Works exports potash to Europe and America, mainly for agricultural use.

The new \$20 million conveyor belt, which will simplify the journey to the railway terminal at Mishor Rotem in the Negev hills, is being financed through a consortium of British banks via Israel's Bank Hapoalim, with a \$13 million guarantee from the British government's Export Credits Guarantee Department.

The first stage of the automated belt was completed at the beginning of January, and the company estimates that the entire project will be ready in a year's time.

The 18-kilometer open mineral conveyor belt, being built by a British company, Cable Belt Ltd., represents a unique project of its type, according to the Dead Sea Works, due to its considerable length and the difficult terrain it crosses. The belt will rise 1,800 meters in an area of steep cliffs and deep gullies.

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PARIS (JTA) — Jack Lang, the Minister of Culture, called on the Paris Municipal Council Tuesday to name one of the city's streets after the late Prime Minister Pierre Mendes-France, who was Jewish. Lang, himself a Jew, spoke while unveiling a plaque on the house where Mendes-France was born near the "Pletzel" as the old Jewish quarter of Paris is called.