

**Hussein-Arafat Honeymoon Is Over;
ISRAELI LEADERS HAIL HUSSEIN'S MOVE**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- King Hussein's forthright announcement that he has ended his fruitless year-long efforts to bring the Palestine Liberation Organization into the peace process because of continued PLO intransigence was hailed by Israeli leaders Thursday as an "historic opportunity" for the Palestinian people to "take their fate into their own hands."

Premier Shimon Peres, speaking at Tel Aviv University, called on the Palestinians in the administered territories to "seize the moment." Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in a television interview Thursday, urged the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to cut themselves away from the PLO and "stand up for yourselves, take care of the 1.25 million Palestinians in the territories and join Hussein in a move to peace."

Peres, declaring that the prospects for peace have improved, summoned the Palestinians to act immediately. The Jordanian ruler, he said, did the right thing by "exposing the truth about the PLO," and "a great deal will now depend on the inhabitants of the occupied areas . . . Will they let time pass, eating away at their fate, or will they take the opportunity, take their fate into their own hands?"

Hussein, in a 3 1/2-hour television address to the Jordanian people Wednesday, expressed in unambiguous terms his frustration with the PLO and its leader, Yasir Arafat. "I and the government of the Kingdom of Jordan announce that we are unable to continue to coordinate politically with the PLO leadership until such time as their word becomes their bond, characterized by commitment, credibility and constancy," Hussein said.

Palestinians Urged To Seize The Moment

Peres warned the Palestinians that "to follow the PLO is to go nowhere and get nowhere. They'll kill a few more people; a little more terrorism. But basically they're killing their own future," the Premier said. Hussein's announcement came as "no surprise to me. . . Two weeks ago I saw already that the Hussein-Arafat talks were a total failure." The public rift between Hussein and the PLO is "something to rejoice over," he added.

Rabin stressed in his television appearance that he spoke "as Minister of Defense, the man in charge of the territories, in appealing to the Palestinians in the territories to come forward and, together with Hussein, negotiate with Israel." He called Hussein's speech "an opening to peace."

Rabin observed, "If only five or six West Bank figures would rise up and take up the leadership call, realizing that the PLO has consistently foiled peace efforts, this would bring a breakthrough. What are they waiting for? A miracle? Here is a golden opportunity," Rabin declared.

In private conversations later he said West Bank Palestinian leaders will have to admit the PLO has led them into a dead end. "I hope they will come forward now and say this publicly and move ahead without the PLO," he said.

The off-and-on negotiations between Hussein and Arafat, encouraged by the United States, during the past year, and similar contacts over the last few years were aimed at finding a formula by which Jordan and the PLO could negotiate with Israel on behalf of the Palestinian people. A minimal condition, insisted on by Israel and the U.S., was PLO acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which would imply recognition of Israel and renunciation of terrorism.

Statement By Hussein

Hussein said he told Arafat last October that he needed a written agreement to the American conditions. "Hinging on this agreement, of course, was an immediate opening of an American-Palestinian dialogue on the basis of which we would have continued our efforts for convening an international peace conference, to which the PLO would be invited to participate as a representative of the Palestinian people," Hussein said Wednesday.

"But our brethren in the Palestinian leadership surprised us by refusing to accept Security Council Resolution 242" even though American assurances "met the PLO's requirements" and "reflected a significant change in the United States position" by accepting a PLO role in peace talks, Hussein said. "Thus came to an end another chapter in the search for peace," the Jordanian monarch declared.

Not 'A Final Divorce'

Yet Hussein's speech was not "a final divorce" from the PLO, but rather "a move designed to challenge the PLO's claim to exclusive representation of the Palestinians," according to Tel Aviv University's Prof. Asher Susser, a leading Israeli political analyst.

"He does not want to slam the door completely on the PLO, but he wants to create new conditions in which cooperation with the PLO, together with forces from inside the territories, would erode the PLO's exclusivity," Susser said Thursday.

He noted that Hussein, in fact, reaffirmed Jordan's acceptance of the 1974 Arab League summit conference decision in Rabat, Morocco, that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

According to Susser, Hussein was not signaling that he was about to enter into peace negotiations on his own but was attempting to give new momentum to the peace process, with the inhabitants of the administered territories playing a greater role than before and with stronger inter-Arab involvement and support.

**PLIGHT OF U.S. FARMERS AND GROWING
ACTIVISM OF RIGHTWING GROUPS AMONG
THEM IS A MAJOR CONCERN OF NJCRAC**
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA) -- The national coordinating body of community relations policies in the American Jewish community urged that its 113 local and 11 national constituent agencies direct more attention to the plight of the American farmer and support various efforts aimed at easing the growing farm crisis.

The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) adopted a resolution to this effect during the organization's annual plenary session at the

Waldorf Astoria Hotel here this week. It is believed to be the first time the issue of the farm crisis has been directly addressed by a national Jewish community organization.

The action comes amid growing concern in the American Jewish community on increased activism by rightwing extremist groups, many preaching virulent anti-Semitism, in the farm belt. These organizations have sought to depict Jews and other minority groups as responsible for the continuing problems facing the American farm community.

The resolution adopted Tuesday by the NJCRAC stated: "The Jewish community relations field should call attention to the economic and social problems affecting a large segment of America's farm belt population and should explore participation in coalitions that support private funding and social services, and should study appropriate legislation to alleviate the plight of farmers and their families."

First Step Toward Greater Involvement

David Goldstein, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau (JCRB) of Greater Kansas City, spearheaded passage of the resolution, which he described as just the first step toward greater Jewish community involvement in the plight of distressed farmers.

"Farmers will begin to understand that the Jewish community cares," Goldstein said during an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He said the resolution will be "enormously helpful" to communicate to the leadership of the farm movement that the Jewish community will actively participate in easing their plight.

But Goldstein said: "Forget the problems of anti-Semitism for the moment. Think of this issue in regard to the effect of this on other human beings. Think about the fact that an entire way of life is being destroyed. Think what it means to the people."

Goldstein said the JCRB, for its part, is a member of the Interfaith Rural Life Committee of the Kansas Council of Churches, a recently formed group of about 40 persons, including farmers, clergy and state leaders. "This is not only a crisis for farmers, but a crisis for all people who live in rural areas," he said.

Efforts To Provide Assistance

The interfaith group, as one of its projects, has assisted in the distribution of a total of about \$30,000 since last October in the form of \$100 checks to farmers' families in need of emergency assistance. Goldstein said the funds came from the Farm Aid concert benefit extravaganza and also the American Baptist Church.

Other efforts are underway that will seek to provide legal assistance to distressed farmers facing foreclosure on their property, and working with farmer self-help organizations. The Jewish Community Relations Council of Des Moines has raised several thousand dollars directed toward assisting farmers, he said, citing this as an example of the growing Jewish community involvement in this area.

"I believe that it was a priority concern to inform the national Jewish community about this problem, because by doing so we could obtain the resources of the whole Jewish community," he said.

While anti-Semitism among some segments of the farm community has received considerable attention in the past year, Goldstein sought in the interview to stress the human dimensions of the farm crisis, and its effects on an American way of life.

But by no means did he seek to dismiss the growth of farmer support of extremist groups operating in the Midwest. These groups include the Posse Comitatus; the Christian Identity Movement, a quasi-religious group providing the theological underpinnings for the Posse and other extremist groups, based on their belief that Jews are the children of Satan; the Lyndon LaRouche group, and the Populist Party.

The continuing farm crisis, which may result in the closing within the next 12-18 months of nearly one-third of existing small farms in Midwest America, has brought out thousands of supporters or sympathizers with the extremists in the farm belt. According to Leonard Zeskind, research director of the Atlanta-based Center for Democratic Renewal, there are anywhere from 2,000 to 5,000 "hardcore" anti-Semites in the farm belt.

Zeskind says there are approximately 7-10 sympathizers for every one of the hardcore activists, "which would mean that there are somewhere between 14,000 to 50,000 sympathizers functioning in the Midwest," Goldstein said. "I believe anti-Semitism is growing in the Midwest," he added.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which has also monitored the activities of extremists in the farm belt, appears to disagree with the assessment that anti-Semitism is growing in the Midwest. But both Goldstein and the ADL agree that there remains a situation at present, as the ADL stated in a recent report, "factors suggesting potential danger in the future."

SEARCH FOR MISSING IDF MEN CONTINUES

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA) — Israel stressed its determination Thursday to continue its massive military search operation in south Lebanon until two Israeli Defense Force soldiers kidnapped by Shiite Moslem extremists Monday are found.

That position was stated by Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Maj. Gen. Ori Orr, commander of the IDF in the north who is in charge of the village-by-village, house-to-house search. Both maintained there is good reason to believe the kidnapers and their victims were still in south Lebanon since IDF forces acted quickly to cut off routes of escape to Beirut in the north of the Bekaa Valley to the east.

The two Israeli soldiers were seized in a convoy ambush near Beth Yahon village in the 3-to-12 mile Lebanese border security zone. Two soldiers of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army were killed and one SLA man was kidnapped.

Their captors call themselves the Islamic Resistance Front but are believed to be part of the fanatical Hezbollah (Party of God) movement, linked to Iran. Rabin said on a television interview Wednesday night that he took "very seriously indeed" a threat by the kidnapers to kill one of the two Israeli soldiers unless the IDF is withdrawn from south Lebanon by a 9 p.m. Thursday deadline, local time.

No Bargaining With The Kidnappers

The Defense Minister made it clear that Israel would not bargain with the kidnapers. While Israel has negotiated prisoner exchanges in the past, there is no way it would negotiate over "political or military demands," he said, adding that a "change in the deployment of the army" was "non-negotiable."

The Islamic Resistance Front claimed in Beirut Thursday that one of the soldiers has indeed been killed. There was no confirmation. Rabin hinted that the missing men may have been killed in the ambush two days earlier and the killers' claim that they are being held

hostage is false. He noted that the assailants' initial intention certainly was to kill them, considering the number of bullets pumped into the car in which they were riding. Nevertheless, the Defense Minister declared, the dragnet mounted by IDF armor and infantry in south Lebanon will continue until there is no more "reasonable hope" of locating the kidnapers and their victims. He noted that the dogtags of the two soldiers and their identification papers were displayed on Beirut television Tuesday night. "But that does not mean that they themselves have been taken there," he said.

Gen. Orr said Thursday there was no hard evidence that the soldiers were spirited away from the security zone or the area immediately to the north, or that either of them was been killed. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the IDF search will continue, he said.

The IDF identified the two men Wednesday as Yossi Fink of Raanana and Rahamim Alsheich of Rosh Haayin, both 20 and both students at the Karnei Shomron yeshiva in the West Bank which combines religious instruction with military service.

Israel suffered one casualty since the search began. A sailor aboard an Israel Navy patrol boat was killed by gun fire from the Lebanese shore near Tyre Tuesday morning. He was identified as Daniel Amar, a 19-year-old naval rating from Netanya.

According to overseas media reports, as many as 1,500 IDF soldiers are conducting the search in south Lebanon, supported by hundreds of armored personnel carriers, halftracks, tanks and helicopters. Four terrorists believed to be members of Hezbollah were killed Wednesday in a clash with an IDF unit near Haris village in south Lebanon. There were no Israeli casualties.

The search is being conducted partly in areas patrolled by contingents of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), but no incidents involving Israeli and UNIFIL troops have been reported.

SENATE RATIFIES GENOCIDE CONVENTION

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (JTA) — Sen. William Proxmire (D. Wis.), who has urged Senate ratification of the Genocide Convention every day the Senate has been in session since January 11, 1967, said Thursday he was "delighted" it had finally occurred. But he added, "it's a great shame" that it took 37 years.

The Senate ratified the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide by an 83-11 vote Wednesday. The vote came almost 37 years after President Truman, who signed the treaty on December 11, 1948, submitted it to the Senate and after 97 other countries had ratified it. Proxmire said he hoped the United States will use the treaty to stop acts of genocide wherever they may occur in the world.

But he said he was disappointed that the effect of the treaty has been weakened by the inclusion of reservations maintaining the right of the U.S. not to submit certain matters covered by the Convention to the World Court and preventing the treaty from superseding the U.S. Constitution.

Proxmire said he hoped a future Administration would delete these provisions, because by including the reservations the U.S. has joined the Soviet Union in saying it is above international law.

The treaty, which declares genocide, whether in peacetime or wartime, a crime under international law, defines it as killing or harming national, ethnic, racial or religious groups or members of those groups.

Credits Reagan's Support

The Senate Wednesday rejected by a 62-31 vote an amendment by Steve Symms (R. Idaho) that would have added persecution for political reasons. But by a 93-1 vote, the Senate directed President Reagan to seek such a change at the United Nations.

Proxmire credited Reagan's support for the treaty for its ratification. Every President since Truman, except Eisenhower, has urged ratification, but conservative opposition has prevented approval.

Reagan did not voice support for ratification until the eve of his appearance before the B'nai B'rith International convention in Washington in September, 1984. He reaffirmed his support in a letter to the Senate last year.

Credit is also being given to Sen. Richard Lugar (R. Ind.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Senate Majority leader Robert Dole (R. Kan.).

Dole pledged that the Senate would ratify the treaty last fall in appearances at the ground-breaking ceremony for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and before the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations. Lugar helped work out the two reservations with the leading opponent of ratification, Sen. Jesse Helms (R. N.C.).

Filibuster Plans Dropped

One Jewish source noted today that while Helms, Symms and other conservative Republicans voted against ratification, they dropped plans to filibuster against it, which would have prevented a vote. One conservative who voted for ratification Wednesday was Sen. Chic Hecht (R. Nev.), who had joined other conservatives last year in warning that ratification might endanger Israel since the Jewish State might be charged with genocide.

A spokesman for Hecht told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Thursday that Hecht changed his mind because of the reservations and by Israel's support for ratification. Proxmire, who made more than 3,000 speeches for ratification, told the JTA that he began his efforts in 1967 because "I felt that genocide was the most hideous, vicious" crime in the world. He said he was old enough to remember the Holocaust and the murder of six million Jews. Proxmire added that he began speaking daily as "a way of keeping the public consciousness awake."

Major Jewish organizations applauded the Senate action as a sign of America's commitment to international human rights. The organizations were the B'nai B'rith International, American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center of Los Angeles.

Proxmire paid tribute to Raphael Lemkin, a transplanted Polish-Jewish lawyer who gave the Nazi crime of mass slaughter the name genocide. The Convention adopted by the UN was largely his handiwork. Lemkin died on August 28, 1959 with his hope for U.S. ratification of the treaty unfulfilled. For Lemkin, the adoption of the Convention would have constituted "an epitaph on my mother's grave." She and 46 members of his family were killed in the Holocaust.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES A DISTURBING STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEF

By Judith Kahn

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (JTA) — Meir Kahane, the American-born rabbi who now heads the extremist Kach Party he founded in Israel, effectively lost his citizenship when he took up a seat in the Knesset, the State Department has argued in a legal brief.

The brief maintains that in addition to committing an expatriating act by accepting the parliamentary post, Kahane has demonstrated through words and deeds that his action was taken with the intent of relinquishing his American citizenship.

According to U.S. law, an American can be found to have lost his citizenship if he voluntarily performs what is defined as an expatriating act committed with the intent of giving up his status as a citizen here. The assumption of an important post with a foreign government is considered to be an expatriating act.

Kahane was notified by the State Department last October that his citizenship had been revoked, or, in the preferred jargon of the government attorneys, had been "lost."

Represented by Charles Sims of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Kahane took the case to court, where he was told that he had not yet exhausted all the administrative channels for contesting the government's decision. Back to the State Department went the Kahane citizenship issue, now awaiting the ruling of its Board of Appellate Review.

A Potentially Charged Issue

In the churning out of briefs and counter-briefs, a more potentially charged question of principle somehow worked its way into the case which might have otherwise been of little interest to mainstream Jewish organizations with their aversion to Kahane's political views.

Sims notified New York Times correspondent David Shipler that the State Department's legal office had produced a brief that the ACLU lawyer called "an invitation to anti-Semitism."

He said the document's repeated references to Kahane's personal beliefs suggested that religious and political affinity for Israel could be grounds for depriving an American of citizenship.

In a written response to questions from The New York Times, State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer maintained that the references had been taken out of their context. They were used only to underscore the argument that Kahane viewed his loyalty to Israel as conflicting with his loyalty to this country and that therefore he had not intended to retain his U.S. citizenship, Sofaer argued.

The Question Of Conflicting Loyalties

Many of the references in the brief that were cited by Sims quote Kahane specifically addressing the question of conflicting loyalties.

He is said to have stated, for example, that when the duty of a Jew to the land of Israel conflicts with that of "the land in which he temporarily resides," the person "must leave the land, give up his citizenship, and resolve the conflict by returning from exile to his permanent home, the land of Israel."

But other Kahane quotations appearing in the brief speak in more general terms about the central

role of Israel for all Jews. These, Sims maintained in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, were irrelevant to the State Department's own argument and should never have been included.

Sofaer himself, Sims pointed out, appeared to acknowledge that the references were out of place when he wrote in his remarks to The Times that although he would still approve the brief in its present form he would insert language in future writings on the case "making clear that a religious Jew is not by that fact any less loyal an American than anyone else."

Sofaer said he would clarify the language so as not "to allow anyone (even Kahane's lawyers) a basis for making the claim" that the State Department was questioning the rights of religious Jews to maintain citizenship here.

Reaction By Jewish Groups

American Jewish groups here have interpreted the entire issue as, at worst, the product of poor wording both on the part of the State Department attorneys and that of The New York Times.

The Times story on the Kahane case appeared to suggest that the brief actually argues that "religious and political affinity for Israel may be a reason to deprive an American Jew of citizenship." But some thought the State Department may have also been sloppy in its argumentation.

A spokesman for a major Jewish organization here said he had heard that Sofaer had not seen the brief before it went out and that the legal adviser was "not at all happy with some of the terminology."

Kahane's own attorney said he doubted that Sofaer had seen the brief and that "when forced to recognize the implications" of its argument, he acted like "a good bureaucrat" by defending the document while promising "not to do it again."

Sam Rabinove, legal adviser to the American Jewish Committee, told the JTA after reading the State Department document that he did not see how the brief "as a whole can be considered by any stretch of the imagination as bad for Jews."

"I would be proud to associate myself with such a brief," Rabinove said.

Hyman Bookbinder, the Committee's Washington representative, said he regarded the issue "as one of the less critical crises" for the Jewish community here, but expressed unease over the linking of Kahane's case to overall "Jewish" concerns.

"Once again this man, Meir Kahane, has really done the Jewish people a disservice by pressing his case of citizenship and visa rights and all of that in such a way that he has confused and confounded the whole dual loyalty issue," Bookbinder said.

In his written statement to The New York Times, Sofaer, who is Jewish, pointed out that he himself has "strong feelings toward Israel," as do President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz, "but we do not regard those feelings as creating even a conflict of allegiances, let alone a situation in which we sacrifice our allegiance to the U.S. to satisfy some religiously based obligation to Israel."

Invitation to anti-Semitism or not, the controversial references in the State Department brief are now being downplayed by the very one to have raised the issue in the first place. Still maintaining that the Department's argument "is an outrageous point of view for the government to make," Sims said he did not even make reference to the issue in a counter-brief that he has since submitted on the case.