

**HERZOG CONGRATULATES AQUINO**

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26 (JTA) — President Chaim Herzog sent a message of congratulations to Filipino leader Corazon Aquino after she was sworn in as the new President on Tuesday. Israel was one of the first countries to recognize the new government. The Philippine Embassy in Israel announced Tuesday that it supported Aquino. Herzog, in his message, praised Aquino and the Filipino people for their devotion to democracy. (Related story, P. 2.)

**PERES SAYS ISRAEL SHOULD WELCOME HUSSEIN'S BREAK WITH THE PLO**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres told the Knesset Wednesday that Israel should welcome King Hussein's decision to end his efforts to bring the Palestine Liberation Organization into the peace process. The Jordanian ruler left the door open to negotiations and Israel will leave the door open because it desires peace, Peres said.

He spoke in reply to five agenda motions concerning Israel's reaction to Hussein's speech of February 19 in which he made clear he could not develop a joint peace strategy with PLO chief Yasir Arafat because the word of the PLO leadership could not be relied upon. Peres stressed that Hussein's speech was important because he saddled the PLO with most of the responsibility for the failure.

He noted further that neither Hussein in his speech nor the PLO in its reaction blamed Israel for the collapse of their talks, but, rather, accused each other. The PLO hasn't changed, Peres said. It refuses to accept United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 but seeks to alter the resolution.

**Peres' Response Attacked**

Peres' upbeat response to Hussein's speech was attacked from both ends of the political spectrum. Rightwingers called the King's criticism of the PLO a "smokescreen." The far left insisted that by excluding the PLO, Hussein was excluding the Palestinian people. According to Ran Cohen of the Civil Rights Movement (CRM), the PLO represents more than 60 percent of the Palestinians.

Peres disputed that figure but said even if it were accurate it would change nothing. "So I'll speak to the other 40 percent," he declared.

PLO supporters in the West Bank, meanwhile, have launched a campaign in support of Arafat. Rallyes were held this week at the university in Bethlehem and at Al Najah University in Nablus. Advertisements were published in East Jerusalem Arabic newspapers urging Hussein not to break ties with the PLO. Increased tension in the territory may or may not be related to Hussein's breach with Arafat.

Most of it concentrated around the Balata refugee camp in Nablus, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in the West Bank. On Wednesday, the army closed a girls' school in the camp after a near-by Israel Defense Force position was pelted with rocks from behind the school walls. A curfew was imposed on Deir Al Khatat Wednesday after rocks were thrown at military vehicles. Rocks were thrown at an Israeli vehicle in Halhoul Tuesday. A small child was slightly injured.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA  
OXFAM UK PREVENTS U.S. JEWISH GROUP FROM SENDING MENINGITIS VACCINE TO AN AFRICAN COUNTRY**  
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Feb. 26 (JTA) — An effort by the American Jewish World Service (AJWS) organization to send some \$150,000 worth of scarce meningitis vaccine to Burkina Faso was thwarted by OXFAM United Kingdom, which refused to accept the medical supplies for distribution in the West African nation, it was learned here this week. Instead, the medical supplies were sent by AJWS to Nepal to meet health needs there.

OXFAM UK, one of six loosely affiliated, though independent OXFAM offices working in 72 countries, appeared to have refused the vaccine out of fear—said to be unfounded—that the government of Burkina Faso would prevent its distribution because its source was a Jewish relief organization, according to officials representing OXFAM UK and the AJWS.

Derek Warren, press officer for OXFAM UK, said the decision to reject the vaccine was taken on a local level by a representative in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, formerly Upper Volta. There was fear that the origin of the vaccine would cause it to be impounded, Warren said.

"If it was impounded at the airport, it would be no good at the time of release," Warren said in a telephone interview from Oxford, England, with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He noted that the vaccine must remain refrigerated. Burkina Faso does not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel.

**OXFAM Says It Is Sorry**

Both OXFAM UK and AJWS officials indicated they hoped the incident was now behind the organizations, and that the groups will work with one another in future endeavors. "OXFAM UK is very sorry for the way the situation was handled," Warren said.

Laurence Simon, president of AJWS, wrote a letter to Frank Judd, director of OXFAM UK, protesting the incident which prevented the much-needed medicine from being transferred to Burkina Faso. He described the incident as "scandalous," in a January 8, 1986 letter to Judd, obtained by JTA.

Furthermore, Simon discussed the incident with Leandre Bassole, the Burkina Faso Ambassador to the United Nations. According to Simon, the Ambassador said that in spite of his government's differences with Israel, this in no way would have any bearing on the acceptance of humanitarian aid provided by an American Jewish relief organization.

AJWS, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was founded in May, 1985. It has concentrated its humanitarian programs, primarily technical and community health-related initiatives, in five countries. Last September, it airlifted \$750,000 in medical supplies to Mozambique, in an action dubbed, "Operation L'Chayim."

The incident involving OXFAM UK occurred late last year after an urgent appeal was issued from OXFAM UK's health unit seeking the vaccine for meningitis for use in Burkina Faso. According to Simon, AJWS filed the appropriate gift documents in order to pave the way for delivery of the medicine.

But Simon said the AJWS received a telephone call prior to the shipment, which was to be at no cost to OXFAM UK, that resulted in having to send the supplies elsewhere. The vaccine was sent to Nepal. Simon estimated that the medicine provided more than 45,000 vaccinations.

Warren, saying that he hoped the incident does not impede future work between OXFAM UK and AJWS, asserted that the medicine for Burkina Faso later came from sources in Belgium. "We are obviously comforted that no one in Burkina Faso suffered and the vaccine was obtained from other people," Warren asserted.

Frank Judd, director of OXFAM UK, apologized in a letter and other communications with Simon after he was informed of the incident. Simon had written at least two letters to Judd seeking clarification of the incident. Warren said in the interview that Judd was scheduled to visit the United States next week where he would meet with Simon to discuss the incident.

#### PERES PRAISES AQUINO'S COURAGE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26 (JTA) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres Wednesday sent a warm message of congratulations to the new President of the Philippines, Corazon Aquino.

".... your victory is the victory of democracy in the Philippines. We here in Israel followed your struggle with concern. We knew that the great majority of the Filipino nation stood at your side."

The Premier praised Aquino's "unusual courage," and said Israel had known all along that justice would triumph in the end. "We were enchanted by the way you pursued the struggle .... to improve the lot of your people," Peres stated.

The tenor and tone of the Premier's cable transcended regular diplomatic practice, and reflected in this way the sincere sense of gratification which most Israelis feel at the outcome of the power struggle in the Philippines.

#### Warm Relations With The Philippines

Relations between the two countries were warm under former President Marcos — and Israeli officials believe they will be no less cordial under President Aquino.

Israeli experts work in the Philippines in agriculture and other fields, and a surprisingly large number of ordinary Israelis have visited as tourists. Invariably they have found a warm and hospitable country, whose people relate without ideological preconceptions to Israel and the Mideast conflict.

Ambassador Uri Gordon, a career diplomat, telephoned the duty officer at the Philippine Foreign Ministry in Manila before dawn Wednesday to read out over the telephone the formal announcement from the government in Jerusalem recognizing the new government in the Philippines.

#### ISRAELIS IN CAIRO REPORTED SAFE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26 (JTA) — All Israelis presently in Cairo were reported Wednesday to be safe and in no immediate danger despite the tenuous situation in the Egyptian capital, where hundreds of paramilitary police went on a rampage. A general curfew went into effect Wednesday afternoon.

More than 2,000 paramilitary police rampaged Tuesday through four hotels near the Pyramids and fought gun battles with military units called in to

quell the disturbance. The paramilitary officers were apparently enraged over a rumored extension of their tour of duty. Since last October's massacre of Israeli tourists by an enraged Egyptian soldier at Ras Burka in the Sinai, the number of Israelis visiting Egypt has declined considerably. Their number was estimated at several dozen.

Prof. Gary Warburg, head of the Israeli Academic Center in Cairo, said in a telephone interview with Voice of Israeli Radio that all Israelis there were well.

He said that early Wednesday morning everything seemed "usual," including the area near the Embassy. However, later in the day he said loud speakers mounted on cars announced the beginning of the curfew. He said he then witnessed thousands of persons rushing home on foot and in vehicles.

#### BODY OF ISRAELI MIA RETURNED TO ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26 (JTA) — The retrieval of the remains of Cpl. Yaacov Ruina, an Israeli soldier missing in Sinai since the war of attrition in the early 1970's, has raised hope that scores of other Israeli soldiers and sailors missing in action over a period of nearly two decades will be accounted for.

Ruina's body was returned to Israel this week. An Israeli delegation sent to Egypt to locate MIAs, said it was found in a grave in an Egyptian military cemetery. Gad Navon, the chief army chaplain, and his aides flew to the site and identified the soldier, reportedly by his dogtags.

#### Egypt Extends Maximum Cooperation

The delegation returned here with more information about soldiers missing since the Yom Kippur War in 1973. They said the Egyptian authorities extended maximum cooperation. Ruina's, however, was only the sixth body returned from Egypt since 1974. Navon said Israel is using highly sophisticated methods of identification and hoped that more bodies will now be identified.

The missing include soldiers who fought in the 1967 Six-Day War; sailors who went down with the Israeli destroyer Eilat, sunk by the Egyptians; and the 69 crew members of the Israeli submarine Dakar, which was posted missing in January, 1968, probably in Egyptian waters.

#### KAHANE FILES COMPLAINT WITH SUPREME COURT AGAINST THE IBA

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26 (JTA) — Rabbi Meir Kahane filed a complaint with the Supreme Court Sunday alleging that the Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA) is discriminating against him and his Kach Party. Kahane's lawyer contended that the IBA is denying the controversial Knesset member air-time and thereby deprives him of freedom of speech and a public platform.

The IBA, a State-owned autonomous agency, conceded that it "distinguishes between Kahane and other members of the Knesset" but maintained that this does not constitute discrimination. According to the IBA, Kahane's extremist views are "contrary to the spirit of the Broadcasting Law."

Kahane and Kach have been widely denounced as racist for advocating the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the administered territories and other measures aimed against Israeli Arabs. President Chaim Herzog, addressing high school students in the context of a study day on democracy February 19, warned against "dangerous ideologies that recall the darkest age of humanity and of the annals of our people." He referred to "Kahanism" in that respect.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL

By David Geller

(Editor's note: David Geller is director of European Affairs in the International Department of the American Jewish Committee.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 26 (JTA) — The election last week of Mario Soares as the President of Portugal has been greeted enthusiastically not only by his political supporters but by all those who see in the election of the first civilian President of Portugal in the last 60 years, a positive and important step in the history of that country.

Jews in Portugal recall that it was during Soares' tenure as Prime Minister from 1976 to 1978 that Israel appointed Ephraim Eldar, Israel's former Consul General in Lisbon, as its first Ambassador to Portugal. The Soares government had agreed to extend diplomatic relations to Israel by raising the status of the Consulate in Lisbon to that of an Embassy. (In 1979, an Arab splinter group attempted to assassinate Eldar. His Portuguese bodyguard was killed but the Ambassador escaped, though he was wounded.)

### An Unfulfilled Promise

In succeeding years, the general jubilation in 1977 engendered by the appointment of Eldar as Ambassador was found to have been premature. Portugal to this day has neither named an Ambassador nor opened an Embassy in Israel. Asserting that Portugal is a poor country, the Portuguese claimed there were one or two other countries with whom they have diplomatic relations but no Embassy.

They further assert that to open an Embassy now would mean to do so in Jerusalem, and this would incur the anger of Arab countries with whom they have close relations. Soares is an old friend of Shimon Peres and both are members of the Socialist International. It was hoped, therefore, that when Peres became Premier of Israel this would have some effect in terms of opening an Embassy in Israel.

In 1984, Peres received personal assurances from then-Prime Minister Soares that the commitment he had given Peres earlier to open an Embassy in Israel would be honored in the near future.

### Several Accords Concluded

Portugal and Israel have had cordial relations in the past and several agreements have been concluded between the two countries.

\* July 1959: A bilateral trade agreement was reached regulating schedules and methods of payments.

\* 1977: An agreement was reached whereby Israel made available agricultural and developmental technology to Portugal. New protocols were signed from time to time, the last in 1982.

\* October 1984: An agreement was reached between El Al and Portuguese National Airlines. The accord was between two national companies, not between two governments.

Jewish communities have existed in Portugal for over 1,000 years, but by the beginning of the 19th century, because of forced conversions to Catholicism. Since the Inquisition period, most Jews had left. Later, a few Jews coming from Gibraltar settled in Lisbon. They were followed by a small number of Jews from Tangiers and Morocco.

In 1892, the Jewish community was granted official recognition by the Crown. After World War II, the Jewish population stood at about 1,200. A significant number were refugees escaping from Hitler, who had found their way to Spain and then into neutral Portugal.

In 1974, when the military junta took power, many Jews left the country for Israel, Brazil and Canada, because of their fear that the country would become authoritarian dominated. There was also resistance to having their young men drafted to fight in Angola in the early 1970's.

In 1979, the assassination attempt against the Ambassador of Israel created a great deal of unease in the small Jewish community. Today, the community numbers about 600, half of whom live in Lisbon, the capital city.

### No Organized Anti-Semitism

The community today comprises both Ashkenazim and Sephardim. There is no organized anti-Semitism, but there have been individual instances occurring against Jews and stories appearing in the media, ostensibly anti-Israel but spilling over into anti-Semitism. The community maintains communication with the World Jewish Congress, the World Sephardi Federation, as well as with the State of Israel.

While acknowledging their peaceful existence and economic well-being, the community is concerned about the high rate of intermarriage and assimilation. This is partly caused by the fact that most of the Jews in Lisbon are members of an extended family or at least a number of families, and many of the younger people look outside of the community for a marriage partner.

In addition, only a small minority of the non-Jewish partners has converted to Judaism. Knowledgeable and realistic community leaders feel that the community does not have much of a future.

### Extremist Leftwing Groups

There are a number of extremist leftwing groups in Portugal. One is the Partido Comunista Internacional Espartaco, a Trotskyist group known for extreme anti-Zionist views. The PCI has close ties to Palestinian terrorist groups led by George Habash and Nayef Hawatmeh.

Another group is called Federation Iberica Grupos Anarquistas, a Lisbon branch of the Spanish Anarchist group which has declared its support for violent tactics.

A third group is FP-25 (Popular Forces of April 25). Emerging from a former extremist group called Força de Unidade Popular, FP-25 began its operations in April 1980. It has been responsible for numerous terrorist attacks in which policemen, industrialists, businessmen and innocent bystanders were murdered or wounded.

In June 1984, FP-25 was the target of a security crackdown. There were a number of arrests. Despite the setback, FP-25 continues. In October, 1984, they claimed to have attacked the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon. In November, 1984 the U.S. Embassy was shelled by mortar bombs, and in December a NATO headquarters in Lisbon was also shelled. Second on their hate list are "U.S.-Zionist power bases."

A fourth group, the Azores Liberation Army, is virulently anti-American and anti-Israel. Its anti-Israel rhetoric increased after the Yom Kippur War when U.S. bases in the Azores were used by the U.S. airlift to Israel.

On the extreme right, there are a number of organizations operating in Portugal. One of them, the Ordem Nova, founded in 1980, is ideologically a mixture of fascism of earlier groups with a strong influence of extreme nationalism. In fact, of the larger rightwing groups, Ordem Nova is the most extreme.

Other rightist organizations include Centro Dos Estudantes Nacionalistas; Movimento Nacional Revolucionario; and Movimento Nacionalista. It is alleged that war criminal Valerian Trifa is receiving support from these groups.

In August 1984, Trifa, who led the Rumanian fascist Iron Guard in a pogrom against Jews in 1941, was deported by the United States. He went to Portugal where he continues to live with no apparent strong effort being made to deport him.

Portugal's small Jewish community, under the leadership of Dr. Joshua Ruah, has criticized the government for its handling of the whole issue and its procrastination. In the meantime, according to Ruah, Trifa's stay in the country has evoked much interest on the part of underground neo-Nazi groups who support him.

Meanwhile, there are other concerns of the Jewish community. Relations between the Arab world and Portugal remain cordial and Jews in Lisbon are anxious about the fact that the PLO maintains an office in that city.

In addition, some 2,000 to 3,000 Moslems have now settled in Portugal, especially since the loss of its colonies, and they were awarded territory in Lisbon to build a mosque.

#### PRO-ARAB AGITATION IS INCREASING IN SOUTH AMERICA

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- A heightened level of pro-Arab political activity and propaganda has been registered in Latin America, becoming visible through various developments including the sudden rash of posters on walls of central Buenos Aires proclaiming solidarity with Libya, the World Jewish Congress reported here.

According to the Latin American branch of the WJC, the pro-Libyan posters carry violent attacks against the United States, but include a renewed indictment of "the Zionists" for the Sabra and Shatila massacres. The signatories are an until-now unknown group called "Syrian Cultural Association."

At the same time, the Argentinian press reports on the creation of an institution to "support the Libyan nation" at a public meeting with the presence of the Ambassador of Libya in Buenos Aires and the director of the Argentine-Libyan Cultural Center. The most visible Argentine members belong to certain sectors of the Peronist Party.

Patricia Bullrich, leader of the Peronist Youth, stated at the meetings: "The greatest homage to the Libyan revolution is to continue the Peronist revolution in our country." In a separate statement by the Peronist Youth, the Malvinas (Falkland Islands) were compared with Libya, and an appeal for "solidarity with the Libyan people facing U.S.A. threats" was made.

Analysts believe that this sudden intensification of pro-Libyan activities is not accidental and seeks to capitalize on anti-American resentment which is deeply ingrained in certain circles of South American public opinion.

#### ANTI-ZIONIST REMARK SPARKS TENSION BETWEEN BLACK AND JEWISH STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

BALTIMORE, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- A crude anti-Zionist remark allegedly made by Black activist Kwame Toure at a meeting sponsored by the Black Student Union (BSU) of the University of Maryland February 5 has sparked tension between Jewish and Black students on the College Park campus.

About 50 Jewish students held a protest rally last week, demanding that the university administration, the Student Government and the BSU repudiate the purported statement by Toure, formerly known as Stokely Carmichael, that "the only good Zionist is a dead Zionist."

The rally ended with a candlelight march to the home of University President John Toll, where an unlighted candle was left "to be re-lit only when Jewish student concerns were respected."

Rabbi Robert Saks, director of the Jewish Student Center, said he was trying to find out whether Toure actually made the statement attributed to him, or other anti-Zionist or anti-Israel statements. If he did, Saks said, he personally would protest to the Student Government Association, the student affairs office, Chancellor John Slaughter and the University Board of Regents.

#### An Incitement To Violence

"I take that (the statement) as an incitement to violence," Saks said according to the campus newspaper Diamondback. "I consider it an outrage that the president of the Black Student Union and other students attending gave him (Toure) a standing ovation."

Slaughter, addressing the Student Senate before the rally, said "just because Toure spoke here does not in any way mean that the University condones his ideas or even that the BSU condones them." BSU vice president Ed Martin rejected a demand by the Jewish Student Union for an apology. "We at BSU apologize for nothing and no one," Diamondback quoted him as saying.

Protesters at the Jewish students' rally were joined by a Jewish Defense Organization (JDO) contingent from New York headed by its leader, Mordechai Levy. Levy claimed that Jewish students were assaulted physically as well as verbally, a charge not confirmed by other student sources. But Jewish students expressed concern over a swastika drawn on the door of the Jewish campus monthly, Mitzpeh, about three weeks ago.

#### ICAO TO CONSIDER ANTI-ISRAEL MEASURE

MONTREAL, Feb. 26 (JTA) -- The Governing Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has postponed until Friday consideration of a resolution by Libya and Syria condemning Israel for intercepting a Libyan executive jet carrying Syrian officials on February 4.

The postponement, backed by the United States, Canada and other Western countries, was deemed necessary in order to reach a consensus that will stress the Council's desire to deal exclusively with matters "concerning the safety of civil aviation rather than transforming the ICAO into a forum for political debate," ICAO sources said.

Israel's counter-charge against Libya for threatening Israeli civilian aircraft will also be taken up on Friday. (By Michael Solomon)