

New Major Mideast Peace Initiative PERES IS MEETING WITH HASSAN By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 22 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres is in Morocco for talks with King Hassan II in what many observers see as the first major Middle East peace initiative since President Anwar Sadat of Egypt went to Jerusalem nine years ago. Peres' trip was unannounced but reaction in Israel was broadly positive.

Peres arrived in Morocco Monday night in an Israel Air Force executive jet. He was expected to remain there 48 hours as Hassan's guest at the King's summer residence at Efrana, about 160 miles south-east of the capital, Rabat.

Political experts and diplomats here and abroad believe the talks will concentrate on ways and means to break the deadlocked Middle East situation. Some diplomats in Rabat were said to believe Hassan may try to arrange an official summit meeting between Peres and King Hussein of Jordan.

It was recalled that Hassan acted as an intermediary in helping arrange Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in November 1977. Details were worked out by the late Moshe Dayan who was Foreign Minister at the time, and several of Sadat's senior aides who met with him secretly in Morocco.

Peres and Hassan held their first round of talks shortly after the Israeli leader's arrival, according to reports from Paris Tuesday. Peres is accompanied by Rafi Edri, chairman of the Labor Party's Knesset faction, his media aide, Uri Savir, and broadcast crews from Israel television and radio. Edri, who is Moroccan-born, visited the country recently and met with Hassan, possibly in connection with Peres' visit.

Reactions From Arab Leaders

In an immediate reaction to Peres' visit, Syria broke diplomatic relations with Morocco Tuesday and Damascus radio accused Hassan of "a long history of treason against the Arabs."

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt welcomed the meeting as "a good initiative" that must be supported by all who favor peace in the region. He told reporters in Cairo Tuesday, "I appreciate the meeting," but he refused to speculate as to whether it might bring Hussein into the peace process. The visit made front-page headlines in the Egyptian press Tuesday.

Jordan's state-controlled media did not mention the visit until late Tuesday morning, long after it was headlined all over the world. It stressed that Jordan had no advance knowledge.

Reaction In Israel

Most Israelis wished Peres Godspeed on his mission. There was less favorable reaction on the left of the political spectrum and bitter criticism on the far right. MK Geula Cohen of the Tehiya Party declared Tuesday, "Shimon Peres must be stopped before it is too late. Morocco is where they sold out all of Sinai ... What are they going to sell out now?"

Likud circles greeted the surprise trip with some cynical comment and reservations. "I hope this is not a stunt designed to torpedo the rotation," Likud Knesset faction chairman Sara Doron said, referring to the rotation of power agreement by which Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir will take over the office of Prime Minister from Peres next October.

Another Likud Liberal MK, Pinhas Goldstein, also expressed hope that "this is not a public relations gimmick." Labor MK Ora Namir termed the visit "a vitally important development." And Binyamin Ben-Eliezer of the Labor-allied Yahad Party suggested that there "must be more to it than just the visit itself and meeting with Hassan." He speculated that Peres might meet with other Arab leaders in Morocco as well.

Cautions Against Immediate Substantive Results

But Cabinet Secretary Yossi Beilin, one of Peres' closest associates, cautioned against expectations of immediate substantive results. He said in a radio interview Tuesday that the meeting was not intended "for negotiations" but for a thorough exchange of views.

Nevertheless, Beilin noted that the very fact it was taking place publicly was "unprecedented ... completely different from secret meetings" He spoke hopefully of the possible evolution of a bloc of moderate Arab states, including Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, which was moving toward the "legitimization" of Israel's presence in the Middle East.

Egypt alone among the Arab states has a peace treaty with Israel, dating back to 1979. But relations between Cairo and Jerusalem have been strained since Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman of the Yahad Party suggested Tuesday that Peres' meeting with Hassan could help improve the Israeli-Egyptian relationship.

Weizman also observed that Hassan would not have invited the Israeli Premier for a public meeting "unless he had some ideas to put forward ... Something to contribute about the Middle East peace process." By the same token, Peres would not have gone to Morocco "empty-handed," Weizman said.

Other Reactions In Israel

There were complaints from Meir Wilner, veteran leader of the Hadash Communist Party, that Peres' move "deliberately avoided the main issue" which according to Wilner was the need to talk to the Palestinians through their legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Yossi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM) also stressed the need to address the Palestinian problem rather than peripheral issues. But his CRM colleague, Mordechai Baram, said the party welcomed every contact with Arab leaders and wished Peres well.

Eliezer Granot of Mapam said he hoped the visit would advance peace prospects but noted that past experience with Morocco had produced very mixed results. Mordechai Wirshubsky of the left-of-center Shinui Party called Peres' trip a valuable development even if it did not result in immediate progress for the peace process.

SHAMIR KNEW PERES WAS MOROCCO-BOUND By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 22 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday he knew in advance of Premier Shimon Peres' trip to Morocco for talks with King Hassan believed related to the Middle East peace process but declined to say whether he gave Peres his blessings. But President Chaim Herzog did.

The Likud leader said on a radio interview that if the trip resulted in anything acceptable to the Cabinet and Inner Cabinet, he would continue that policy after he takes office as Prime Minister next October under the Labor-Likud rotation of power agreement.

However, Shamir stressed that he would oppose any territorial concessions in the West Bank in exchange for an agreement with Jordan, if that was the outcome of Peres' talks with Hassan. He indicated that the Cabinet as a whole had not been informed in advance of Peres' trip, adding that it was up to the Premier to decide which senior ministers to inform.

Herzog Welcomes Peres' Mission

Herzog welcomed Peres' mission. He said it indicated the extent to which the Arab states now accept the fact of direct talks with Israel as the way to achieve peace in the Middle East. He too knew in advance of Peres' plans.

"On the eve of his visit, the Prime Minister reported to me that all the arrangements had been concluded, and I gave him my blessing and best wishes for the trip," Herzog said. "I regard his open and publicized visit as of first rate importance."

Israel Radio reported late Tuesday that it learned Peres' talks with Hassan are proceeding as planned and that the Premier is due home Wednesday.

BACKGROUND REPORT HASSAN HAS LONG RECORD OF HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS WITH ISRAELIS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 22 (JTA) -- King Hassan of Morocco has a long record of high level contacts with Israelis, although Premier Shimon Peres' surprise visit to that country Monday night as the King's guest is the first publicly acknowledged summit-level dialogue between the two countries.

Peres is known to have visited Hassan at least twice during the period 1977-1984 when he was leader of the Labor opposition. And Hassan played host to Yitzhak Rabin when he was Prime Minister of Israel in the mid-70s, though Rabin's trip to Rabat was undertaken in strictest secrecy.

Hassan's quest for Middle East peace accelerated after Likud came to power in Israel under Premier Menachem Begin in 1977. He hosted two crucial secret negotiating sessions with then Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Hassan Tohamey, a senior aide to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Those sessions are said to have paved the way for Sadat's visit to Jerusalem on November 19, 1977, the Camp David meetings between Sadat and Begin a year later and the subsequent peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

Hassan invited Begin to Morocco. But the latter, according to Israeli sources, insisted that a visit be open and official and Hassan demurred. Last year the Moroccan ruler publicly invited Peres to meet with him, "but only if he comes with a real peace plan."

Shortly afterwards, Hassan appealed to the Arab world to select one of its leaders to meet with Peres for an exchange of views on peace. In March, 1986, he said he himself would accept the assignment. But there was no response from other Arab heads of state.

Timing Of Hassan's Invitation

Some analysts here attribute the timing of Hassan's latest invitation, which Peres accepted, to Morocco's desire to improve its relations with the U.S. Washington has been concerned of late by a Moroccan flirtation with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. The analysts suggest that Morocco may feel that a rapprochement with Israel would boost its standing with the Americans.

Hassan had been scheduled to visit Washington this week but postponed his trip for health reasons. He is believed to be hoping for increased U.S. military and economic aid. Morocco's ongoing war with the Polisario rebels in the Sahara has been draining its resources.

Morocco has always maintained warm ties with Israelis of Moroccan origin. They are allowed to pay visits to their native country without undue bureaucratic difficulties. Members of the small Jewish community still living in Morocco -- about 18,000, mainly in Fez -- are permitted to visit Israel and many do so quite openly.

This attitude is unique in the Arab world and has earned Hassan special affection in Israel. Many Israelis from Morocco speak fondly of their former home and stress the atmosphere of tolerance and cordiality which generally prevails between Jews and their Moslem neighbors in Morocco.

"Relations were generally good, even when disturbing events such as wars were taking place outside," Labor MK Yaacov Amir, who was born in Morocco said Tuesday. He attributed this to King Hassan and the King's late father.

U.S. JEWISH DOCTOR RETURNS TO USSR TO CONTINUE STUDIES ON THE VICTIMS OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA) -- Dr. Robert Peter Gale, who led a team of four bone marrow transplant experts to the Soviet Union in the immediate aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster last April, returned to Moscow's Hospital No. 6 this week to continue further studies of the team's work.

The 40-year-old Gale, who is Jewish, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Committee of the American Committee of the Weizman Institute of Science in Rehovot. He is expected to return from the Soviet Union on July 30.

Gale led a team of four experts who went to the Soviet Union to aid victims suffering from radiation poisoning as a result of the nuclear accident at the Chernobyl reactor in the Ukraine. Gale, who offered his expertise to the Soviets through intermediaries, received a call on May 1 from then acting Soviet Ambassador in Washington Oleg Sokolov asking for his assistance.

Gale gathered three colleagues, including Israeli-born biophysicist Dr. Yair Reisner, who is currently touring the United States, to go to the Soviet Union and treat a group of Chernobyl victims. Reisner is affiliated with the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot. The other two experts, along with Gale and Reisner, are Gale's colleagues from the Univer-

sity of California at Los Angeles Medical Center: Dr. Paul Terasaki, an immunologist and an authority on tissue typing; and Dr. Richard Champlin, experienced in performing bone marrow transplants and an expert in the complex post-transplant care.

Gale, who was born in New York, is with the UCLA Medical Center. He studied at Hobart College in Geneva, New York, and received his medical training at the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine. He also received a Ph.D. from UCLA in 1978 in microbiology and immunology. A resident of Bel Air, he was the Meyerhoff visiting scientist at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot in 1982-1983. He is married to an Israeli, Tamar Gale, whom he met while in Jerusalem in 1974 while attending a medical meeting. They have three children -- two daughters, Tal, 9, Shir, 7, and a 2 1/2-year-old son, Elan.

U.S. CALLS PERES-HASSAN TALKS 'AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY'

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, July 22 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration Tuesday called the talks under way in Morocco between King Hassan II and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres "an historic opportunity" and urged "all governments" to support the new dialogue.

"We applaud this courageous initiative by these two leaders -- one which the U.S. strongly supports," said a statement read by State Department spokesman Pete Martinez. "Our consistent position has been that direct dialogue holds out the best prospects of progress toward a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

At the same time, the White House criticized the reaction of Syria, which has broken off its diplomatic relations with Morocco, as "a negative step which flies in the face of the changing political environment in the Middle East."

But Administration spokesmen maintained that while the U.S. had been told of the talks in advance there was no direct American role in preparing the groundwork for the first publicized meeting between Israel and an Arab head of state since the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visited Jerusalem in November 1977.

"The U.S. was aware of this meeting, but we regard it as a Moroccan-Israeli initiative which we strongly welcome," White House spokesman Larry Speakes said in a statement. He said the Peres-Hassan meeting "symbolizes the change that has occurred in the Middle East and creates a context which can enhance the peace process."

The Morocco talks come in the wake of a recent Jordanian move to expel officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization loyal to Yasir Arafat -- a move that has been viewed as a possible prelude to a major new peace initiative by Jordan's King Hussein.

Administration spokesmen would not say how far in advance they were aware that the talks would take place or whether this week's meeting was behind the King's cancellation of a visit to the U.S. that had been scheduled to begin Tuesday. However, State Department officials reportedly acknowledged that this was the reason given when Hassan backed out of the trip last week.

But the State Department continued to characterize discussions held last week in Amman by American Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering as "personal consultations," unrelated to the current talks in

Morocco. Meanwhile, the White House said Vice President George Bush had not changed the itinerary for his trip to the Middle East where he will travel next week. Bush is scheduled to visit Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

LAVI PROTOTYPE MAKES OFFICIAL DEBUT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 22 (JTA) -- A prototype of the Lavi, Israel's second generation jet fighter plane, was rolled out of a hangar at Ben Gurion Airport Monday night to make its official debut before 2,000 invited guests, including a delegation of U.S. Congressmen.

But the array of colored lights that bathed the pencil-thin, white-painted aircraft did not dispel the shadows that hang over its future. The Lavi project, which cost over \$1.2 billion for research, development and construction, most of it supplied by the U.S., has become the object of bitter controversy both in Washington and Israel.

The Pentagon believes the cost of producing the plane is excessive -- a view shared by some senior Israel Defense Force officers, and there has been less than subtle pressure by the Reagan Administration of late for Israel to abandon the project.

A Gala Occasion

Nevertheless, the unveiling Monday night was a gala occasion. President Chaim Herzog cut a blue-and-white ribbon across the huge hangar doors and a tractor slowly pulled the plane on to the tarmac to be admired by the throng of dignitaries and other VIPs invited for the occasion.

But one of the Lavi's most important boosters was absent. Premier Shimon Peres flew to Morocco Monday night for meetings with King Hassan. Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin officiated instead. But there was no mention by the television and radio reporters covering the Lavi that the Prime Minister was not at hand. Live coverage was reduced to a few minutes because of the Cabinet crisis in the wake of Justice Minister Yitzhak Modai's resignation earlier Monday.

Peres' trip to Morocco was unannounced. Israelis who are used to surprises may have guessed that something was afoot when Peres attended what was billed as a dress rehearsal Monday morning. It was a private, unofficial roll-out of the plane for the benefit of Israel Aviation Industries (IAI) workers who designed and built it.

The Premier, in his remarks, acknowledged that the Lavi was a "big risk" in many ways. But, he noted, "those who want to take small risks will remain small. Those who want to succeed in a big way must be daring in a big way. That is the reason for the Lavi."

Rabin, in his official remarks, said the Lavi has already passed a major hurdle. He stressed, however, that much more effort and sacrifice would be required before it went into production. He thanked the American Congressional delegation that attended the Lavi roll-out. The American contribution was crucial to the success of the project, Rabin declared.

One of the Congressmen, Rep. Jack Kemp (R. N.Y.), told the gathering that the aircraft could have both the Star of David and the Stars and Stripes for its insignia. But he stressed that the decision to go ahead with production is solely an Israeli one. The new fighter aircraft is the most expensive item on Israel's tightened defense budget. Originally projected to cost \$4 billion, some critics say it will cost as much as \$6 billion. Pentagon experts have estimated the cost of each unit at \$22 million.

ISRAEL TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS MINUTE, UPDATED STUDY SHOWS

WASHINGTON, July 22 (JTA) — Despite claims to the contrary, Israel's trade with South Africa is minute and Jewish opposition to apartheid is significant, an updated study by the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation indicates.

The revised edition of the popular monograph entitled "Jews, Zionism and South Africa," includes expanded information on the response of the South African Jewish Community to apartheid. There is also a new chapter on the infiltration and exploitation of the anti-apartheid movement by anti-Israel forces.

The study was made by Yosef Abramowitz, a member of the B'nai B'rith Hillel National Student Secretariat and a student at Boston University, who, as a major in international relations and an intern at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), has done a great deal of research on these issues. The study was edited by Rabbi Stanley Ringle, formerly the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation's director of community affairs and development. B'nai B'rith Hillel is a sponsor of this report.

Purpose Of The Study

The purpose of the study, says Ringle, is to refute the libelous slogan of Zionism equals racism from being spread around American college campuses. "Well-intentioned student activists, for lack of understanding of the true character and purpose of Zionism, internalize the lie," Ringle explains. "They accept the insidious propaganda about Zionism and condemn the alleged South African-Israeli alliance as a conspiracy of two racist states."

Abramowitz states that the anti-apartheid movement has been infiltrated by an anti-Israel element. "While seeking to spread an ugly lie in an effort to undermine support for Israel, it threatens to compromise the purpose and legitimate goals of the anti-apartheid movement," he says.

Abramowitz calls the strategy to discredit Israel through South Africa a two-pronged attack: one, to highlight trade between the two countries, and two, to perpetuate the Zionism equals racism slur "with the understanding that since racism is evil, so too is Zionism."

Issue Of Arms Supplies

Pointing out that Israel is "constantly accused" of being one of South Africa's largest arms suppliers, Abramowitz cites studies by the Congressional Research Service and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, both of which indicate that Western nations, especially France, have been the biggest suppliers and that weapons have also been sent to South Africa by the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

In 1974, the year of the highest imports of major weapons by South Africa during the 1964-83 period, Israel had no sales to that nation. On the other hand, Jordan sold Pretoria 41 Centurion armored vehicles and 55 short Tigercat missiles.

As to nuclear programs, for which Israel has been accused of aiding South Africa, a 1979 report by the United Nations Security Council listed the United States, Great Britain, France, West Germany, and the Netherlands as the major nations cooperating with South Africa.

According to the Abramowitz report, Israel's arms sales to South Africa have concentrated on the

navy, "the least important part of the South African military in the preservation and perpetuation of apartheid." In 1977-78, Israel delivered three guided missile boats; nine others were constructed in South Africa under Israeli license between 1978 and 1984.

In addition, Israel sold Pretoria six patrol boats. No weapons that could be used to repress the South African Blacks have been sold by Israel since the United Nations passed a resolution in 1979 boycotting arms to South Africa, the report says.

Arab Trade With South Africa

As for other trade, Israeli exports to South Africa have been modest, Abramowitz says. In contrast, 100 percent of South Africa's oil from 1971-1974 came from Persian Gulf Moslem states, with Iran supplying 50 percent, Saudi Arabia 17 percent, Iraq 15 percent, and Qatar 11 percent. After 1974, the Arab states did not reveal their oil exports. It is believed that they went unreported out of fear of the effect such reports would have on the Arabs' relationship with those African countries that had broken diplomatic relations with Israel.

The Shipping Research Bureau and Lloyd's Voyage Records later disclosed that Arab oil exports to South Africa have remained high and that the Arab nations' entire trade with the South Africans, which includes gold, food and livestock, was second only to that of the United States. (Arab states reportedly take in some \$3 billion a year in gold from South Africa.)

Despite this vast trade by other nations with South Africa, the bulk of the blame has been laid on Israel and the American Jewish community. Accusations have not been made against Arab or Western nations, nor to Arab-Americans, British-Americans or any other groups, thus hinting that anti-Semitism plays a role in the charges.

Jewish Reaction To Apartheid

As a reaction to apartheid, the B'nai B'rith Hillel National Student Secretariat study reports that the Jewish abhorrence of apartheid "is consistent with the tradition that made Jews part of the (U.S.) civil rights movement."

Abramowitz points out that the Jewish community both in South Africa and elsewhere throughout the world has been in the forefront of the struggle to end apartheid. The study points out that B'nai B'rith International was on record against apartheid as early as 1966. The study also points out the anti-apartheid activities of other major Jewish organizations, most notably Jewish Community Relations Councils.

A new chapter has been added on the response of the South African Jewish community to the injustices of apartheid. The study points out that the South African Jewish community has long been the source of major white opposition to the apartheid system. On June 12, 1985 the South African Jewish Board of Deputies became the first white community organization to call for the removal of all apartheid laws and the total "rejection" of apartheid.

Copies of the study can be obtained from the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, 1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.