

BUSH URGES DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN AS NEXT STEP IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 29 (JTA) — U.S. Vice President George Bush Tuesday urged direct talks between Premier Shimon Peres and Jordan's King Hussein as the next step in Middle East peace efforts.

In remarks to journalists during a tour of the Negev, Bush said, "We would like to see King Hussein have direct negotiations with the State of Israel." He said Peres' meeting last week with King Hassan of Morocco may aid in facilitating talks between Peres and the Jordanian monarch.

But Peres was quick to dash any speculation of an imminent meeting with Hussein. He told Israel Radio during the Negev tour with Bush that it would "take time" before he met with Hussein.

Bush Not Planning To Visit Morocco

Bush's comments came as aides to the visiting American official sought to dampen speculation that the Vice President would make an unexpected visit to Morocco, site of the talks between Peres and Hassan.

Those talks marked the first public dialogue between an Arab head of state and an Israeli Premier since Anwar Sadat, the late Egyptian President, made his extraordinary visit to Jerusalem in November 1977.

Bush, in fact, said Tuesday that he was not planning to include Morocco on his present 10-day, three-nation tour of the Mideast, although he admitted considering a visit to Morocco. The Vice President indicated Hassan had not invited him to come at this time. Bush will go next to Jordan and then Egypt before returning to Washington.

Vice President Visits The Negev

Bush's third day in Israel included a visit to Sde Boker, the kibbutz home of Ben Gurion, where he participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at Israel's first Premier's gravesite. Peres accompanied him to Sde Boker. Bush later proceeded to an air base as the guest of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The substantive working sessions between Israeli officials and Bush have been scheduled for Wednesday in Jerusalem after which the U.S. Vice President is to hold a news conference. Israeli Cabinet Ministers were to meet Tuesday night with Peres to discuss problems holding up a contract with the U.S. for construction of a Voice of America transmitter in the Negev.

Local Negev settlements and major Israeli industrial and electronic firms are pressing the government in Jerusalem to insist on a larger role for Israeli firms in the construction and operation of the facility than the draft document envisages.

Taba Talks Scheduled To Resume

It had been hoped that Bush would be able to attend a signing ceremony on the Taba arbitration talks between Israel and Egypt, in which the U.S. has

participated. The pace of the talks rapidly accelerated earlier this week. But Israeli officials now doubt that documents can be signed or even initialed during Bush's visit to the region. The talks are scheduled to resume Wednesday morning in Herzliya, outside Tel Aviv. The Egyptian team, led by top Foreign Ministry lawyer Nabil Arraby, flew to Israel Tuesday evening.

In addition to putting the finishing touches on the text, the two sides in the Taba talks must delineate the disputed zone, either in map form or in the form of aerial photographs. These maps or photos will serve as annexes to the document of arbitration.

Possible Peres-Mubarak Summit

There had also been speculation here that the Vice President could participate in a summit meeting between Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. But while leading Egyptian journalist and Presidential confidant Anis Mansour predicted in Jerusalem Monday that a Peres-Mubarak summit would take place very soon, he was unwilling to cite a specific date.

Mansour spoke to local reporters after meeting with Peres to interview him and also to convey a message from Mubarak. Peres is understood to have sent a message to Mubarak last weekend concerning his trip to Morocco.

On Tuesday, Mansour, formerly editor of October magazine, interviewed Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and paid the Likud leader the back-handed compliment that "You aren't impatient and angry like your image in Egypt."

Shamir retorted that he was rarely given the opportunity to present himself and his views to the Egyptian people through their media. Shamir complained to Mansour of the Egyptian media's critical and often harsh anti-Israel and anti-Jewish tone.

PERES SAYS HIS TALKS WITH HASSAN GAVE 'LEGITIMACY TO OPEN DIALOGUE' BETWEEN THE ARAB AND JEWISH WORLD By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 29 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres told the Knesset Monday that his visit to Morocco last week for talks with King Hassan had given "legitimacy to open dialogue" between the Arab world and the Jewish world. In this, Peres said, the meeting had been "an important turning point" in Mideastern affairs.

The Premier said the meeting would hopefully "accelerate" the process of thawing the cold peace with Egypt. He added that Israel would renew its invitation to Jordan to open a direct dialogue. Peres told the Knesset:

"... I believe that this meeting (in Morocco) can serve as an important turning point in the history of the peace efforts in the entire region. It can serve as an infrastructure for a continuation of the dialogue that will bring a solution of peace It extricated the peace process that began with Egypt from its isolation. It gave legitimacy to the chief condition for the peace process: open dialogue instead of eternal confrontation. It demonstrated anew Israel's sincere desire for peace. It showed that on the Arab side, too, there is someone to talk to." Recounting some of the substance of his talks with Hassan, Peres said that the King had strongly

maintained that an equitable solution to the Palestinian problem was a cardinal Israeli interest since the Palestinian birthrate posed a demographic problem for the Jewish State.

Peres continued, quoting Hassan: "Their (the Palestinians) rate of natural increase is greater than yours. You will not use force, and you will be compelled — if not today then tomorrow — to find a solution befitting your character, and not only their aspirations." Peres said that he had replied "that Israel seeks peace. This is true of all the democratic elements of the Israeli polity. The Jewish people has no inclination to rule another people, or to suppress their sons. The problem is to find a partner for peace."

Peres pointed out that Hassan, whom he characterized as "truly a man of peace," urged Mideast peace on the basis of the resolutions adopted at the Arab League summit conference of September 1982 in Fez, Morocco.

Peres said that for the King, "the advantage of the Fez plan lies chiefly in the fact that it posits two elements: it is accepted by almost all the Arab states, and — according to the King — the plan implies the Arab states' recognition of the existence of the State of Israel and its right to live in recognized and secure borders."

But, Peres said he had pointed out to Hassan that "the plan also recognizes the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians and dwells on their right to their own state, one that would incorporate the territories that were added to Israeli control since the Six-Day War."

DOVEISH GROUP WITH LABOR PARTY URGES PARTY TO RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS TO SELF-DETERMINATION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 29 (JTA) — A doveish group within the Labor Party has presented a resolution to Labor's Central Committee urging the party to recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

The move follows Premier Shimon Peres' meetings in Morocco last week with King Hassan. The monarch urged him to accept the Palestinians' aspiration for political independence.

The Mashov Circle in Labor is a group comprising mainly younger party activists. Its strength is assessed at less than 10 percent of the 600-member Central Committee, and the resolution, when it comes up, is seen as certain to be defeated.

Nevertheless, the move is considered important because it reflects a wider feeling within Labor that a reassessment of party positions is due at this time, if not overdue.

Two key party figures who have voiced this sentiment in recent days are Knesset faction chairman Rafi Edri, who accompanied Peres to Morocco, and party Secretary-General MK Uzi Baram, who is a long-time dove. The Mashov Circle is led by Peres' closest personal and political aide, Cabinet Secretary Yossi Beilin. Peres himself has said he does not see the need for a reassessment or revision of the party's positions at this time.

GREECE SENDING SIGNALS TO ARAB STATES AND PLO THAT IT INTENDS TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, July 29 (JTA) — Government officials here appear to be sending signals to Arab states

and the Palestine Liberation Organization that Greece intends to maintain its present policy of improving relations with Israel, and that full diplomatic relations between Athens and Jerusalem is the ultimate goal.

Sources here pointed to two recent incidents to support this view. The first was the secret meeting earlier this month between government Ministers and the former PLO representative here, Shaouki Armali; and the second incident was an unusual luncheon given to the departing Israeli diplomatic representative here.

Armali, who is now the PLO's representative in Belgium and who is said to be a close and trusted associate of PLO chief Yasir Arafat, arrived here July 20 on what was described as a visit of a tourist nature. Nevertheless, Armali met with four Greek Ministers, one of them being Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias.

Media reports indicated that Armali talked with officials on Greece's improving relations with Israel. Papoulias is reported to have told the PLO official that improved ties with the Jewish State will in no way affect Greece's relations with the Arab world.

The Foreign Minister pointed out to Armali that there was virtually no reaction to Spain's establishment of diplomatic ties last February with Israel. Furthermore, Papoulias told the PLO official that economic promises to Greece for support for the Arab cause never materialized.

Shortly after the meeting with the PLO official, Papoulias had a luncheon honoring the departing Israeli representative in Greece, Yehezkel Barnea. This is the first time anything of this sort had taken place. The luncheon was attended by some 25 persons, including five Ministers and many senior government officials. Said Barnea: "I was very flattered and impressed. The atmosphere was more than warm."

POLL ON ANTI-SEMITISM IN GREECE IS DISPUTED BY A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, July 29 (JTA) — A highly-placed Greek government source refuted the results of a recent opinion poll which found anti-Semitism widespread among the Greek public.

In the unusual briefing, the source said there is no anti-Semitism in Greece, there never was and he is almost sure there never will be.

The comments came about a month after the publication of a public opinion poll conducted by the Greek opinion research firm, Eurodim, that found among other beliefs that 55 percent of the respondents accepted a common anti-Semitic notion that Jews control the political and economic activity in Europe and America.

Forty-one percent of the respondents perceived the existence of widespread anti-Semitism in Greece. But the government source criticized the survey of 420 Athenians, saying it was not representative of some four million residents of that city, about 35 percent of the Greek population.

The source held a special briefing on the poll results to explain the government's side of the issue. Although the poll said nothing about governmental anti-Semitism, the government apparently attempted to defend the public against these allegations.

The source quoted from a secret U.S. Embassy report in Athens addressed to the State Department after World War II, that singled out Greeks as one of the few European peoples that not only helped its Jews but sheltered them at the risk of being killed if discovered.

Greece has also passed a law that makes racism and anti-Semitism a criminal act, the source pointed

out. The source acknowledged that there were anti-Semitic attacks in Greece during the 1982 Lebanon war but said the activities were more insulting than dangerous.

According to the official, the government realized that the public perceived its anti-Israel policy during the war as anti-Semitism.

At the time, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu called a meeting with Greek Jewish leaders and made a strong statement saying Jews are as Greek as anyone else.

Papandreu also met World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman and former Israeli Ambassador to Washington Ephraim Evron in a show of good will.

The source said the government decided to hold this most recent session to help improve relations with Israel and diminish the effects of negative press reports which are not true.

ONTARIO SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS CONSTITUTIONALITY OF SCHOOL PRAYER By Ron Csillag

TORONTO, July 29 (JTA) — The Supreme Court of Ontario, in a 2-1 vote, has upheld the constitutionality of school prayer. In an historic ruling here recently, the court held that the daily recitation in many Ontario schools of the Lord's Prayer does not violate the religious freedom of non-Christians or non-believers and is not contrary to Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The case stems from a suit launched by five parents in Sudbury, Ontario, who argued that the daily recitation of the Lord's Prayer in schools promotes Christianity over other religions and discriminates against non-Christians and non-believers.

Two of the parents are secular Jews, one is a practicing Jew, one a Moslem and one a non-practicing Christian.

They argued that although regulations of the Sudbury Board of Education allow children to opt out of prayer, the act of not conforming singles them out and opens them to ridicule and stigmatization.

The parents said the Lord's Prayer impels religious observance and is a Christian, not a non-denominational prayer. They wanted either to scrap saying the prayer or to allow children a moment of quiet reflection, a practice now common in many schools.

But the court rejected the parents' argument, ruling there was no coercion to say the prayer and added that if a child faces embarrassment as a result of not saying it, "it is nevertheless an embarrassment that will have to be faced throughout life and not just during school years," Justice Dennis O'Leary said in his judgment.

Disappointment With The Ruling

At least one of the Jewish parents said she would gladly send her child to a Jewish school but there aren't any in Sudbury. Jewish community officials have expressed disappointment with the ruling.

"It's a sad day," said Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) Ontario Region chairman Charles Zatzon. "The ruling certainly sustains the feeling that the public school system is not devoid of religion. The problem is that many people feel the Lord's Prayer is non-denominational. It's a Christian prayer of Christian origin. Somewhere down the line, (the case) will probably get to the Supreme Court (of Canada)."

"We're quite disappointed," said Alan Shefman, national director of the B'nai B'rith League for Human Rights. "We are very strongly urging the ministry of education, even in light of the decision, to amend the inadequacies in the (Education) Act." Both the CJC and the League were interveners in the case.

The Ruling Opinion

In his judgment, O'Leary wrote that "our schools have an obligation to teach morality. While some may argue that morality can be taught without associating it with God, few would deny that in the minds of most persons, morality and religion are intertwined and that to associate God and morality is an effective way of teaching morality."

O'Leary noted that the Constitution recognizes the supremacy of God and wrote that reciting the Lord's Prayer, even if one is not a Christian or is a non-believer, does not deprive a person of his religious freedoms. At best, it amounts to "a minor infringement of freedom of conscience and religion."

Justice William Anderson agreed, saying the opting out provision of the regulations ensures that no student is forced to recite the prayer. Anderson suggested the parents appeal to the school board to explore the possibility of more ecumenical religious exercises.

The decision "reveals a regrettable insensitivity to the realities of minority group experiences," said Alan Borovoy, counsel to the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

The Dissenting Opinion

But the parents can take some solace in the dissenting opinion of Justice Robert Reid, who agreed that school prayer "grants to the minority less freedom than the majority enjoy."

"I cannot accept the view that the objectors must pay a price for their objection, when the willing conformists pay no price ... It may be difficult for religious people to appreciate the feelings of agnostics and atheists. Yet nevertheless, those feelings exist," Reid argued.

Canada has no constitutional separation of church and state.

MOSLEM PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA

JERUSALEM, July 29 (JTA) — Some 2,750 Israeli Arabs, a third more than last year, left Israel Sunday on the first stage of the Hajj, the traditional Moslem pilgrimage to Mecca.

This is the eighth year that Saudi Arabia has permitted Israeli Moslems to make the journey. According to a tacit agreement between Israel, Jordan and East Jerusalem Moslem leaders, the pilgrims will use Jordanian documents and travel on Jordanian buses.

The pilgrims, who will be joined by other Arabs from the territories, will travel to Saudi Arabia via Jordan. They will stay in Mecca and Medina, the two holiest cities of Islam, for a month.

NEW YORK (JTA) — "Judaism, A Primer," intended mainly for interfaith programs and for Christian audiences, has been published in a revised and expanded edition by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The 42-page primer was written by Lawrence Schiffman, professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University.

JWB/JEWISH CHAPLAINS COUNCIL SET UP TO SERVE MILITARY PERSONNEL

NEW YORK, July 29 (JTA) — A new body, to be known as the JWB/Jewish Chaplains Council, has been organized by representatives of the three major rabbinic groups in American Jewish life.

The newly-established Council will serve Jewish chaplains in the U.S. military and Veterans Administration and Jewish military personnel and patients in VA hospitals. Each of the three rabbinic groups may endorse its own candidates for chaplaincy service.

The JWB/Jewish Chaplains Council will maintain an active liaison with the Chiefs of Chaplains of the Air Force, Army, Navy and VA; visit and consult with Jewish chaplains, lay leaders, installation chaplains, command personnel, and major commands; assist the military and naval lay leader/reader program; and supervise and support Jewish chaplains in the reserve program and part-time chaplains. It will also reach out to Jewish cadets and midshipmen in the nation's service academies; conduct an annual chaplain's career development workshop; issue a Jewish calendar-diary, periodic newsletter, leaflets for all Jewish holidays and other publications; respond to chaplains' and lay leaders/readers' requests for supplies, and serve as an advocate for Jewish personnel in the U.S. armed forces.

Composition Of The Council

The Council will be composed of four representatives from each of the three rabbinic groups plus four members of an active-duty chaplains advisory group. Two representatives from each group will make up the executive committee of the Council.

Rabbi Barry Hewitt Greene, of Short Hills, N.J., will be chairman of the new Council, and Rabbi Aaron Landes, of Elkins Park, Pa., is chairman of the executive committee. Rabbi David Lapp is director of the new Council and also of JWB's Armed Forces and Veterans Services. Rabbi Nathan Landman is deputy director.

Details of the arrangement were worked out at a meeting of the following representatives of the three rabbinic groups: Rabbi Herschel Schacter, Bronx, and Rabbi Abraham Avrech, Brooklyn, Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox); Rabbi Landes and Rabbi Matthew Simon, Rockville, Md., Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative); and Rabbi Greene and Rabbi Frank Waldorf, Brookline, Mass., Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform).

"The unity which has marked service to the Jewish military chaplaincy for almost 70 years continues," said Leonard Rochwarger, JWB president.

"We are extremely gratified that the representatives of the three major rabbinic bodies in America have exhibited such superb statesmanship in organizing the JWB/Jewish Chaplains Council. The American Jewish community can be assured that its men and women in uniform, their families and hospitalized VA patients will continue to get the full range of services that they have always received."

FIRST SUMMER INSTITUTE IN YIDDISH ATTRACTS 24 STUDENTS TO BAR-ILAN

TEL AVIV, July 29 (JTA) — Some 50 students from Israel, the United States and other countries are participating in a three-week Yiddish summer studies program at Bar-Ilan University — the first such program to be offered by an Israeli university — that begins August 3.

Prof. Gershon Winer, who holds the Rena Costa Chair in Yiddish Language at Bar-Ilan, said the program was patterned after the Oxford University Summer Institute. It is being given under the auspices of the Dina Halperin Institute for the Performing Yiddish Arts — named for the internationally-acclaimed star of Yiddish theater and films — and features Yiddish language and literature, folk songs and art songs, and drama workshops. Credits earned at the summer institute are transferable to many American universities, Winer noted.

"The summer institute emphasizes Yiddish as a living language and culture," said Winer, director of Yiddish studies at Bar-Ilan. Since its formation in 1982, Bar-Ilan's Yiddish department has been the country's leader in training certified teachers of Yiddish in Israel's secondary schools, where Yiddish is now officially recognized as an elective language.

Bar-Ilan is Israel's only university to combine general studies with an extensive program for Judaic courses as a requirement of graduation. Some 12,000 students — about 1,000 of whom come from the United States and other countries outside of Israel — are pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies at Bar-Ilan in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics, law, education, social work and business administration.

600 PERSONS MAP WAYS TO DEAL WITH ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE FARM BELT

KANSAS CITY, July 29 (JTA) — Some 600 persons, joined by representatives of state and local governments, various Jewish organizations and the Black community, gathered at Kehilath Israel sanctuary here last week for a forum on the farm crisis and rural anti-Semitism.

According to a report in the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle, David Goldstein, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau of Greater Kansas City, described the work Jewish communities throughout the country are doing for the farmers.

"We're committed to standing shoulder to shoulder with our rural brothers and sisters to help alleviate the problems facing family farmers," said Goldstein. He told the forum of the policy resolution adopted recently by the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council which urged its 13 national and 113 community constituent agencies to aid in easing the plight of American farmers.

The concern of anti-Semitism in the farm belt, where extremist groups have sought to use Jews and other minorities as scapegoats for the deteriorating farm situation, was addressed by Leonard Zeskind, research director of the Atlanta-based Center for Democratic Renewal.

The Chronicle reported that Zeskind warned that extremists working throughout rural America are not like those with which the Jewish community is familiar. He said that instead of donning brown shirts, these groups dress their rhetoric in concern for family farmers.

Zeskind added the Chronicle article reported that racist groups began their activities in the farm belt nearly five years ago. "So we're coming into this behind the 8-ball ... and we've got a lot of catching up to do," Zeskind declared.