

### Bush Ends Israel Visit With 'Some Optimism' PAYS RESPECT FOR PERES' MOROCCO VISIT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 30 (JTA) — U.S. Vice President George Bush said Wednesday that he was leaving Israel with "some optimism" after talks with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and other members of the government.

At a press conference in Jerusalem, where Bush also attached his initials to an agreement to establish a Voice of America (VOA) radio relay station in the Negev, Bush said he would be conveying "some ideas" to King Hussein of Jordan from Peres.

Bush said he had "really enjoyed" his visit to Israel and appreciated the "friendly warm reception" he received from the people of Israel. Bush left Israel Wednesday afternoon after a nineteen gun-salute ceremony at the Rose Garden near the Knesset.

Speaking at the press conference, the Vice President said he hoped his visit "will contribute" to the relations between Israel and the U.S., and to the Middle East peace process.

Bush expressed his "respect" for Peres' visit to Morocco to meet with King Hassan. It had been a "courageous move" which had captured the imagination of the Americans, he said.

The Vice President himself will not be visiting Morocco since no invitation from the King has been forthcoming. He said he "quite understood" if the King thought that his (Bush's) visit would "not make much sense now."

### Happy About the VOA Accord

The Vice President said he was "happy" that the VOA accord was signed while he was in Israel.

The VOA initialing comes amid ongoing controversy in Israel between government ministries, industrial conglomerates, conservationists and Negev settlers over aspects of the project. There will be further discussions with the U.S. before the accord is fully concluded.

Bush also put his name to a tourism accord between the U.S. and Israel. He said he hoped that American tourism to Israel would pick up soon. Israeli officials have expressed the hope that Bush's high profile activities here will help restore tourism to its pre-1986 level.

### Soviet Jewry Issue

The Vice President said he was "particularly moved" to meet the mothers of refusenik Jews still in Russia and said it would be "wonderful to see an opening up of the flood gates" of Russian aliya.

He said Soviet Jewry was a "very important question ... on the table at every meeting ... a lead item on the agenda" whenever Americans and Russians met. He sidestepped a reporter's suggestion that Washington condition further detente on Soviet Jewish emigration.

Bush again urged, as he did Tuesday, a direct meeting between Hussein and Peres but he said that he knew that the King has "some problems." The U.S. has to be "sensitive to the problems" the King

faces concerning such a meeting, Bush stated. But he reiterated U.S. policy favoring direct negotiation between the parties in the conflict in the Middle East.

He said he did not regret urging Hussein in public (Tuesday) to meet with Peres despite Hussein's summary rejection of the idea, mentioning his "warm personal relationship" with King Hussein.

Bush said his meeting Tuesday night with West Bank and Gaza leaders had been "really worth while to me." He had not been distressed by the failure of some invitees to attend. (See separate story.)

### Restores U.S. Policy Favoring Reagan Plan

He firmly restated U.S. policy favoring the Reagan plan as the solution for the Palestinian problem and noted that Washington opposes an independent Palestinian state.

"We do favor self-determination, but we don't like to see self-determination where it's already predetermined what that means." For him, said Bush, it meant in the context of the Middle East — the Reagan plan.

The Reagan Mideast plan, which he offered in 1982, called for negotiations involving Israel and Jordan and leading to the eventual establishment of an autonomous Palestinian entity in the West Bank in association with Jordan. The plan also criticized the West Bank settlements. That plan was rejected by Israel and was criticized by many Jewish spokesmen in the U.S. The Reagan Administration continues to view the plan as a viable step in the Mideast peace process.

Asked why the U.S. insists on the PLO's acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, Bush replied: "Well, the Palestinians have in their charter the destruction of the State of Israel and that is not acceptable to the U.S. government."

### Praises Strong U.S.-Israel Relationship

Bush praised the "fundamentally strong" U.S. relationship with Israel, and hoped his visit would dispel suspicions in some Israeli quarters, triggered by the Pollard affair and other episodes, that there was a "vendetta" by some American officials against Israel.

Queried about news reports that the U.S. is weighing granting Israel Most-Favored-Nation status in arms acquisitions from Washington, Bush confirmed: "There will be a joint study to see what kind of discussions can be undertaken in terms of having Israel have some of the benefits" that accrued to formal U.S. allies. Bush referred to Australia and New Zealand, specifically. "That's as far as U.S. policy is shaped at this point."

### BUSH MEETS WITH WEST BANK AND GAZA PALESTINIAN PERSONALITIES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 30 (JTA) — United States Vice President George Bush met Tuesday night with 18 prominent West Bank and Gaza Palestinian personalities and engaged in discussion over the twin issue of Palestinian self-determination and the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Middle East peace.

Bush was reported by a meeting participant to have reiterated strongly that the U.S. policy regarding the

PLO had not changed, and that the organization must accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and Israel's right to exist as a condition for its participation in the peace process.

Hana Seniora, editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper Al-Fajr and whom Israel had said would be acceptable as a Palestinian negotiator, reported after the meeting that "Bush said the U.S. wanted to help promote the peace, but we said this is not enough."

Although 18 Palestinians invited to the meeting held at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, attended, at least nine others stayed away, heeding calls of rejectionist Palestinian groups to boycott the meeting. Palestinian sources said the rejectionists had voiced physical threats to some of the invitees to induce them to shun the meeting.

Among those attending were Seniora; Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem; Hafez Touqan, acting Mayor of Nablus; and Hatem abu Ghazaleh, a prominent Gaza activist. The deposed Mayor of Hebron, Mustafa Natshe, was among those who stayed away from the meeting. There was also a partial strike of shops and businesses in East Jerusalem protesting American policy on the Palestinian issue.

#### JEWISH JOURNALIST BUMPED, UNBUMPED AND REBUMPED FROM PRESS ENTOURAGE TRAVELLING WITH BUSH TO JORDAN

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, July 30 (JTA) -- The Jerusalem Post's Washington correspondent, Wolf Blitzer, bumped and then un-bumped from the press entourage travelling with Vice President George Bush, has apparently received final word that he will not be welcome in Jordan.

Blitzer was to have joined the press contingent travelling with the Vice President in Jordan on Wednesday. Bush is currently on a 10-day three-nation tour of the Middle East, which includes stopovers in Israel and Egypt.

Blitzer, an American citizen and accredited White House correspondent, had originally been invited by Bush to join the press group, only to be told at the last moment that he would not be welcome in Jordan.

But Blitzer then received a call Tuesday from Bush's press secretary travelling with the entourage in Jerusalem, Marlin Fitzwater, telling the Jerusalem Post reporter that "arrangements" had been made with Jordanian officials to allow for Blitzer's participation in the Jordanian stop of Bush's tour.

#### Was All Ready To Leave

Blitzer was to have caught a plane Tuesday night from Washington to New York to connect with a flight that would bring him to Jordan. But poor weather conditions forced cancellation of the Washington to New York flight, forcing Blitzer to make other arrangements to leave Washington early Wednesday morning.

But he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a telephone interview that late Tuesday night he received a call from Jerusalem Post editor Ari Rath, who had been informed by Craig Fuller, Bush's Chief of Staff, that Jordan had

reversed its decision to allow him into that country. Fuller's information came from the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan, Paul Boeker. The Bush official was told that "I would not be welcome in Jordan and that if I came to Jordan I would be detained at the transit hotel and put on the next flight out," Blitzer told the JTA.

Blitzer originally secured a visa from the Jordanian Ambassador in Washington who had given the journalist his "strong assurances" of a welcome in Amman. But only a few hours before the trip, Blitzer was informed by Stephen Hart, assistant press secretary to the Vice President, that Hart had been told during his preparatory trip to Amman that Blitzer would not be welcomed because he was writing for The Jerusalem Post.

Blitzer said, however, that he had clarified the point with Ambassador Mohammed Kamal, who himself was said to have cleared the problem with Jordan's Foreign Minister Taher El Masri. But Blitzer told the JTA on Wednesday, "Under the circumstances, I will not be going to Jordan. It sounds final to me."

#### Speculates On Reasons

Blitzer speculated that two reasons may have played a role in the Jordanian decision. The first was to prevent a Jerusalem Post reporter from travelling in Jordan. But the other appeared, Blitzer said, to be a result of Arab politics.

Blitzer said Jordan appeared to be taking a "hardline" approach to Israel in the immediate aftermath of Premier Shimon Peres' two days of talks last week in Morocco with King Hassan. The issue of whether to allow Blitzer into Jordan "became part of the politics of the Arab world," he said.

#### AJPA CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION INTO CASE OF BUMPED JEWISH JOURNALIST

ST. LOUIS, July 30 (JTA) -- "The gross mishandling of Wolf Blitzer, who has been twice 'bumped' from participation in the coverage of Vice President George Bush's visit to Jordan, is an outrage which must not be repeated, and which must be thoroughly investigated," said Robert Cohn, president of the American Jewish Press Association and editor-in-chief of the St. Louis Jewish Light.

Cohn, head of the AJPA, a voluntary organization of 150 American Jewish newspapers and journalists, had issued an earlier statement based on the announcement that Blitzer, Washington bureau chief of The Jerusalem Post, would be allowed to participate in the Jordan trip after all.

"Blitzer, whose work is highly respected and appears in many of our publications, as well as The Jerusalem Post, is an outstanding journalist, who has been published in The New York Times and frequently appears on national television. He is a U.S. citizen with an American passport," Cohn continued.

"The very idea that our respected colleague would be barred not once but twice is outrageous and totally unacceptable not only to the AJPA but to the interests of a vigorous free press in America and the Mideast. Indeed, it is contrary to the spirit of the Administration's sponsored peace process itself."

Cohn added: "It is incumbent on the Vice President as well as the White House to instruct their staff not to take it upon themselves to question the credentials of a respected American journalist attempting to do his job. Second, steps must be taken to guarantee that the full participation of all credentialed reporters on future official visits to any foreign capital must be assured as a pre-condition to such trips.

"While we applaud the effort of the Vice President to further the peace process through his current Mideast trip, we feel that his office as well as the government of Jordan, owe Blitzer and the entire American overseas press corps an apology for this mishandled matter as well as firm assurances that it will not be repeated," Cohn concluded.

**TABA TALKS CONTINUING**

By David Landau

**JERUSALEM, July 30 (JTA)** -- Israeli and Egyptian negotiators will spend Thursday in Taba surveying at first hand the disputed beach site over which the future arbitration is to be held.

Israel's chief negotiator, Avraham Tamir, Director-General of the Prime Minister's office, said Wednesday he hoped the arbitration document could be wrapped up by the end of next week and submitted to the Cabinet for ratification.

He said that he and David Kimche, Director-General of the Foreign Ministry, would fly to Cairo early next week for a concluding round of talks with Foreign Minister Ismet Abdel Meguid and his aides.

The trip to Taba this week is in connection with preparing the annex to the arbitration document. This annex must show clearly and graphically, either by map or by aerial photographs, the precise location and dimension of the disputed points. The negotiating teams held informal talks and launched into intensive formal sessions Wednesday morning at a hotel in Herzliya.

Prior to this round, the legal adviser to the U.S. State Department, Abraham Sofaer, held high-level meetings in Jerusalem and Cairo hoping to smooth out last-minute difficulties and ensure that the two sides can wrap up the document of arbitration.

Tamir said that he and Kimche would finalize next week with the Egyptians the names of three third-party arbitrators, who together with one Egyptian and one Israeli jurist will comprise the five-person arbitration panel.

Israel's nominee has already been announced: she is Prof. Ruth Lapidot of the Hebrew University, a leading international lawyer.

**SHEKEL TO BE LINKED TO NEW BASKET**

**JERUSALEM, July 30 (JTA)** -- The government decided Wednesday to link the Shekel to a basket of currencies of its major international trading partners instead of solely to the U.S. Dollar, the current alignment. The objective of the new linkage is to reduce the inflationary impact of the ongoing rise in the non-Dollar currencies.

The Dollar will comprise 60 percent of the new basket of currencies, while the German Mark will comprise 20 percent, the British Pound Sterling 10 percent, and the French Franc and the Japanese Yen each constituting 10 percent of the basket.

Israel hopes that the new alignment will bring inflation down to below 10 percent a year, as inflation has been partially caused by the Shekel falling against the non-Dollar currencies.

According to economic observers in Jerusalem, the new linkage reflects faith in the stability of the Shekel achieved by the government's current economic program.

**USSR HEBREW LANGUAGE POLICY CHALLENGED**

**LOS ANGELES, July 30 (JTA)** -- A recently published TASS interview with a Russian "philologist and Hebraist" seeking to negate "assertions by Western propaganda that Hebrew is banned in the USSR" appears to be an attempt by the Kremlin to blunt international criticism of the Kremlin's anti-Jewish policies, according to the Simon Wiesenthal Center here.

The Center reported that on July 14, the official Soviet news agency published an interview with Elvi Chernin, described as a "Soviet Hebraist." He asserted in the interview that "representatives of the Jewish nation have never spoken Hebrew, neither in pre-revolutionary Russia nor in the Soviet Union."

The Tass article went on to quote Chernin as saying that "it is permitted to study any language including, naturally, Hebrew." He added that Hebrew is being taught "in higher education establishments in Moscow, Leningrad, and Tblisi," and is "studied in Yeshivas -- religious schools attached to synagogues -- of which there are about 100 in the Soviet Union."

Wiesenthal Center associate dean Rabbi Abraham Cooper, responding to Chernin's published remarks, said, "In light of the international criticism levelled at the Kremlin's treatment of Soviet Jewry, it is not surprising that they would try to put the best possible face on its anti-Jewish policy."

"And while it is true that Hebrew is not technically banned in the USSR, the harsh reality is that authorities have made Jews who dare to teach the holy tongue of Judaism and the Bible pay dearly for their efforts. Currently there are no less than 10 Hebrew teachers languishing in Soviet prisons on a variety of trumped up charges, ranging from narcotics possession to violent agitation against the state to hooliganism," said Cooper.

**SAN FRANCISCO IN MIDST OF 20-DAY FAST FOR SOVIET JEWRY**

By Winston Pickett

Northern California Jewish Bulletin Staff Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO, July 30 (JTA)** -- A 30-year-old Jew who shaved his head, donned prison clothes and is nearing the end of a 20-day fast in front of the Soviet Consulate, said that he has taken his actions because Jews in the Soviet Union are "living in a state of siege."

Reuben Haller, a native of San Francisco, spends four to six hours each day outside the Soviet facility on Green Street to dramatize the plight of three Moscow refuseniks. Two of these are Veniamin and Tanya Bogomolny.

Haller said that the 20-day duration of his fast, which began July 16 and is scheduled to end August 4, equals the number of years Veniamin Bogomolny has been waiting to emigrate to Israel. Bogomolny first applied for an exit visa in 1966 and is the longest-term refusenik in the Soviet Union.

Bogomolny's wife, Tanya, is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer and has a sister, Natasha Sverbilov, who lives in San Francisco. Haller, who plans to emigrate to Israel next year and calls himself a "Zionist activist," said in an interview that it is time for American Jews to turn up the volume of protest if they want to save refuseniks.

According to Lillian Foreman, president of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews which is coordinating the protest, "unless we keep the spotlight on specific Jewish families who aren't allowed to be reunited, as well as on the dismal rate of emigration in general, the public will forget just how serious the problem really is."

Haller, a BACSJ Board member, said his protest is also meant to focus attention on the imprisonment of refusenik Hebrew teacher, Alexey Magarik, 30, who was arrested this spring on fabricated charges of hashish possession.

## PERES ASSESSES MEETING WITH HASSAN

NEW YORK, July 30 (JTA)— Israeli Premier Shimon Peres told a group of ethnic leaders and journalists from the United States that his meeting with King Hassan of Morocco will enhance the prospects for a more normalized peace between Egypt and Israel, it was reported by Lester Pollack, president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, who with Malcolm Hoenlein, JCRC executive director, led a special mission to Israel. The mission returned to New York this week.

Peres told the mission participants at a 40-minute meeting in the Prime Minister's office last Friday, that "Until now, Egypt was an orphan in the Middle East." The meeting with Hassan, he added, could only serve to improve Egypt's position in the Arab world and will serve to negate widespread skepticism with regard to Israel's ability to find talking partners among Arab leaders.

Peres, Pollack reported, stressed the importance of sharing Israel's message with the full spectrum of ethnic groups in the United States. In the discussion that followed, the Prime Minister touched on a number of sensitive issues raised by the American visitors.

Israel's Relationship With South Africa

On Israel's relationship with South Africa, Peres underscored Israel's long-standing position that it could never accept apartheid and condemned all forms of racism and bigotry. However, Peres explained, that among the reasons Jerusalem does not terminate diplomatic relations with Pretoria is Israel's interest in protecting the small but significant Jewish community in South Africa.

Peres went on to assert that Israel's trade with South Africa, largely in coal and diamonds, totals less than one percent annually of Israel's foreign trade. He also categorically denied that Israel has any military ties with the regime in Pretoria.

Other Issues Discussed

On other foreign policy issues, the Prime Minister was hopeful that diplomatic relations will be established with the People's Republic of China. He cited the Chinese for their identification with strong family and educational values and their industriousness.

Peres also noted that Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi has reversed his favorable opinions of the PLO over the past few months in the wake of Jordan's break with the terrorist group, Peres said that Craxi "is ready to be instrumental" in his proposed economic plan for the Middle East in an effort to avert fiscal disaster in such countries as Egypt and Jordan "before they become like Bangladesh."

Much closer to home, Peres asserted that Syria's role in international terror is more subtle than Libyan involvement but no less active. "They are more prudent than they have been in the past," Peres stated, "but if they can get away with it they will do it."

Pollack congratulated Peres on his historic visit to Morocco and thanked him for being so generous with his time as well as his willingness to answer the group's questions.

"The elusive peace which Israel has sought for nearly four decades will only come when the surrounding Arab states recognize the legitimacy of Israel's right to exist as a nation among nations," Pollack stated. "Your meeting with King Hassan, we hope,

will act as a catalyst for similar ventures with Jordan's King Hussein and other Arab leaders in the near future," he added. Among those in attendance at the meeting were: Laura Blackburne, president, Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, N.Y.; Alberta Fuentes, executive director, New York City Commission on Human Rights; Thomas Gulotta, Supervisor, Town of Hempstead, N.Y.; Paul Henry, Health and Hospitals Corporation, N.Y.; Virginia Kee, Chinatown Planning Council, N.Y.; Andreo Mantineo, editor, Il Progresso (Italian-language newspaper), N.Y.

Also Dean Skelos, New York State Senator; Celso Sotomarin, Member of Parliament, Peru; Archie Spigner, Member, New York City Council; Charles Weiss, Jr., Science and Technology Advisor, World Bank, Washington, D.C.; Boleslaw Wierzbanski, editor and publisher, Polish Daily News, N.Y.; Barbara Wierzbanski, International Rescue Committee, N.Y.; Justin Yu, president, Chinese Language Journalists Association; and Michael Miller, assistant executive director, JCRC, N.Y.

While in Israel the group also met with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir; Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin; Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Arens; MK Dan Meridor; Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek and Beit Jala Mayor Farach-El-Arj among other political and civic leaders.

POLISH JOURNALS SPAR ON ANTI-SEMITIC ARTICLE

WARSAW, July 30 (JTA) — An anti-Semitic article appearing in a Polish literary magazine was sharply attacked in a Polish cultural publication earlier this month, the World Jewish Congress reported. The offensive article, "In the World Torn Apart," appeared in the monthly journal *Poezja* and was authored by the deputy-editor-in-chief Bohdan Urbankiewicz.

Leopold Lewin, in his piece entitled "Phantoms and Returning," in the July 2nd issue of *Kultura*, said that on reading the anti-Semitic article he felt as though he was in the pre-war world where the *Gazeta Warszawska* had published jokes about his Jewish origins and the monthly *Mysl Narodowa* had published an essay entitled "Vampirism of Semite Poetry."

Lewin wrote that he thought the time had past when literary works were judged according to racist criteria, yet Urbankiewicz had written that those Jews who had become integrated into Polish culture since the war had been forced to do this by circumstances and not as a result of individual decisions or through cultural preparation. Urbankiewicz's accusation that certain Jewish writers had weak roots in things Polish was an echo of classical chauvinism, Lewin charged.

NURSES THREATEN TO STRIKE AGAIN

JERUSALEM, July 30 (JTA) — Israel's nurses are threatening work sanctions again, less than a month after they ended a traumatic national strike that caused much hardship and dislocation to hospitals and patients.

The nurses' leaders, meeting in Tel Aviv Tuesday, claimed that negotiations with the government had been proceeding desultorily and without prospects of producing meaningful improvement in their working conditions.

The nurses went back to work after their stoppage without having won any government pledge to increase their salaries, but with promises to negotiate extensively on other aspects of their working conditions.