



ISRAEL AND JORDAN COLLABORATING UNOFFICIALLY TO ELIMINATE PLO INFLUENCE IN THE WEST BANK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 29 (JTA) -- Israel and Jordan are collaborating unofficially in a policy to eliminate PLO influence in the West Bank which has already drastically reduced terrorist activity in the territory, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin disclosed in an interview published in Maariv Monday.

He said the appointment of local Arab leaders to serve as mayors of three of the West Bank's largest towns was part of that policy and in fact was undertaken at Jordan's initiative. It was announced Sunday that Abdel Majid E-Zir, Halil Mussa Halil and Hassan A-Tawil have been named the mayors of Hebron, Ramallah and El Bireh respectively, replacing the Israel Defense Force officers who previously governed the towns.

Rabin said the three appointees were tacitly approved by Jordan and agreed to by Israel after it was ascertained that they were acceptable to the local population and had no connections with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

This step is part of the ongoing war against terrorism and strengthening of moderate elements, Rabin said. He reported that King Hussein of Jordan has encouraged moderate elements in the territory and poured money into circles favorable to his Hashemite regime.

Terrorist Attacks Have Declined

Rabin said that Israel was prepared for an upsurge of terrorism in 1984 when Hussein permitted the opening of PLO offices in Amman. But Jordan changed its policy sharply after Hussein broke with PLO chief Yasir Arafat last February.

The PLO offices were closed and PLO activists were detained or expelled from Jordan, Rabin said. The new attitude and policies of both Jordan and Israel has resulted in a significant reduction of terrorist attacks.

Since February, terrorist activity in the West Bank fell by 50 percent and there has been a 70 percent drop in the number of casualties attributable to terrorist acts, Rabin said, compared to the same period last year.

No Unilateral Implementation Of Autonomy

Meanwhile, Gen. Ephraim Sneh, head of the civil administration in the West Bank, stressed in a radio interview Sunday night that the appointment of Arab mayors should not be construed as a beginning of the unilateral implementation of autonomy by Israel.

"By no means, no. There is no connection to any kind of (autonomy) plan," Sneh said. "On the other hand," he added, "this is a continuation of the policy we have followed for a long time: that control of the local municipalities which were headed by Israeli officers should be returned to the local residents."

Sneh pointed out that autonomy was an overall regional concept, not a local municipal one. "There is a basic and substantive difference between the two things," he said.

POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES ARE MOVING TOWARD DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Sept. 29 (JTA) -- Poland's Foreign Minister told Jewish leaders here that in the aftermath of the decision to resume Polish-Israeli diplomatic links, he is "convinced that other Socialist countries are adopting the same attitude," Kalman Sultank, World Jewish Congress vice president, disclosed.

Sultank also said that Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski pledged to take up the growing problem of Catholic Church institutions being built at the sites of Nazi death camps in Poland -- specifically the convent at Auschwitz and the chapel at Sobibor.

Orzechowski and senior aides held three hours of discussions "on matters of mutual concern" with Jewish leaders at a private luncheon last Friday at the offices of WJC Congress president Edgar Bronfman, who was joined by Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The talks were "wide-ranging" and served as a follow-up to discussions held last December in Warsaw with Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, WJC sources said.

Poland's Diplomatic Relations With Israel

On the subject of diplomatic relations with Israel, Orzechowski disclosed that Poland's diplomatic representative will arrive in Israel on October 14 -- coincidentally, the date of rotation of posts between Premier Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

He noted that it would have been "impossible" for Poland to have taken this step two or three years ago given the international climate, but had done so now because it is "in the interests of Poland, the Jewish people, and peaceful coexistence."

Although Orzechowski said he expected other Communist states to soon act similarly, he noted that Poland had taken the lead because of its historical legacy linking it to special ties to the Jewish people. "It is naive and wrong to try and separate the Jewish people from Israel," he said, explaining that normalization of relations with the Jewish people is linked to recognition of Israel.

Orzechowski stressed support for Israel's right to "secure borders" and added that "the existence of the State of Israel is a fact and any effort to disregard this fact is doomed to failure."

Issue Of Auschwitz And Sobibor

Turning to the question of Auschwitz and Sobibor, Sultank said there were indications that church institutions were being planned at other death camp sites and noted that the chapel at Sobibor -- where all the 200,000 victims were Jewish -- "will be the central building at the site, and will distort the true nature of the place."

"Poland's role should be to preserve the authentic historic record and prevent these distortions of history," Sultank told Orzechowski. In response, Orzechowski pledged that "Poland will be the guardian of the historical record." The

government, he said, had regretted what had happened.

He said he would take up the matter of Sobibor on his return to Warsaw, claiming he had not previously been aware of it. "We do not wish to do anything that would irritate our relations with the Jewish community inside or outside of Poland," the Foreign Minister stated.

Poland To Prosecute Nazi War Criminals

On another issue, Orzechowski pledged to continue full cooperation with American authorities in the pursuit and prosecution of Nazi war criminals. He specifically said Poland would continue its wholehearted assistance in the case of John Demjanjuk who is facing trial in Israel charged with being the notorious "Ivan the Terrible" at Treblinka.

THREE SOVIET JEWS, SEEKING TREATMENT FOR CANCER IN THE WEST, HAVE OR WILL RECEIVE EXIT VISAS, ACCORDING TO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 (JTA) -- Three Soviet Jews seeking treatment for cancer in the West have received or will receive exit visas for the purpose, it was reported at a meeting of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews at the Westin Hotel here Monday.

The information came from Jewish sources in the USSR and has not been confirmed by the U.S. Administration or in any other quarters. Also unconfirmed is speculation that the visas may be part of a deal between the U.S. and Soviet Union which resulted in the release of Nicholas Daniloff, the Moscow correspondent of U.S. News and World Report who was arrested earlier this month on charges of spying for the U.S. Daniloff flew to Frankfurt, West Germany, Monday.

The persons seeking visas are two couples, Benjamin and Tanya Bogomolny and Naum and Inna Meiman, and Benjamin Charney. Charney, Tanya Bogomolny and Inna Meiman have been diagnosed to have cancer. Benjamin Bogomolny and Naum Meiman would accompany their spouses.

Sources at the Soviet Jewry meeting here said there was no clear relationship between the promised visas and the Daniloff case. The visas may have been granted in response to appeals by Western physicians on behalf of the cancer victims, according to Glenn Richter, national coordinator of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ), who is attending the meeting.

It was learned, meanwhile, that another Soviet Jew, Semyon Borozinsky of Leningrad, has been sentenced to five-months' forced labor for refusing to testify at the trial earlier this year of Jewish activist Vladimir Lifshitz who was sentenced to three years at a labor camp.

VIOLENCE ERUPTS AT FUNERAL OF ASHKELON RESIDENT STABBED IN GAZA By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 29 (JTA) -- Tension erupted into incidents of violence in Ashkelon Monday where an angry crowd of more than 2,000 attended the funeral of Haim Azran, a 35-year-old Ashkelon resident fatally stabbed by an Arab assailant in the Gaza market Saturday.

Feelings were exacerbated by the dedication of "Peace Square" in Ashkelon Sunday in honor of the late King Mohammed of Morocco, which infuriated rightwing elements. Azran's funeral had

been scheduled for Sunday and the townspeople were given to believe that it was postponed on government orders so as not to interfere with the dedication ceremonies, attended by Premier Shim-on Peres.

Eli Dayan, the Moroccan-born Mayor of Ashkelon, tried to mollify the crowd at the funeral, explaining that it was delayed because the police insisted on an autopsy. But he was shouted down by hecklers, as was Health Minister Mordechai Gur who attended on behalf of the government.

Police reported several incidents of violence against Arabs visiting the town or passing through. Their cars were stoned and, in two cases, set on fire. Gur tried to assure the crowd that the fight against terrorism would continue.

Sharon Reads A Prepared Statement

Ariel Sharon, Minister of Commerce and Industry, an outspoken Likud hawk, was on hand. He refused urgings by the crowd to speak. But he read a prepared statement to reporters later denouncing the honor to King Mohammed, father of the present ruler of Morocco, King Hassan.

He said if he had been consulted he would have recommended that the square be named instead in memory of the 21 Jews killed in an attack on the Neve Shalom synagogue in Istanbul earlier this month and that a street in Ashkelon be named in honor of Azran.

Dispute Over Honor To King Mohammed

Meanwhile, the dispute over the honor to King Mohammed continued along party lines. Laborites are urging closer contacts with Morocco while Likud and other rightwing parties are sharply critical of Peres' recent moves in that direction.

Peres was the guest of King Hassan in Morocco last July. He stressed in dedicating the square in honor of Hassan's father, that the late King had befriended Jews during World War II and at other times.

That has been disputed by Prof. Michael Abutbul of the Hebrew University's Truman Institute. He claims, in a book published several months ago, that Mohammed collaborated with the Vichy regime in World War II and never aided his Jewish subjects.

But Labor MK Rafi Edri told a television interviewer Monday that Abutbul's claim was disproven by other historians and charged Abutbul with seeking publicity for his book.

Edri said he had documentary proof of Mohammed's help to Jews during the Vichy and Nazi periods, including statements by Moroccan Jewish leaders. He said there was also proof of a deathbed request by Mohammed to his son and successor, instructing him to continue caring for the welfare of Moroccan Jews as his forefathers had done for generations.

Edri was a member of Peres' party when he visited Morocco. He was there again last week and had a private audience with Hassan.

SHAMIR MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS OF FIVE BLACK AFRICAN COUNTRIES By Margie Olster

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 29 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir held behind-the-scenes meetings with Foreign Ministers of five Black African countries since his arrival here last Tuesday. None of the countries have diplomatic

relations with Israel. Shamir reportedly urged the Foreign Ministers, who were not identified, to renew relations with Israel and pointed out that there is nothing to fear in a resumption of diplomatic ties with the Jewish State, according to Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner.

Shamir reminded the Foreign Ministers that since 1981, four African nations -- Zaire, Cameroon, Liberia and Ivory Coast -- have reestablished diplomatic ties with Israel with virtually no repercussions from the Arab world. Only three Black African nations -- Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland -- retained relations with Israel after Black African countries severed diplomatic ties with Israel following the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Talks With Zairian Foreign Minister

Shamir met with Foreign Minister Mandunju Bula Nyati of Zaire on Monday to discuss Israeli aid programs and the possibility of sending an Israeli delegation of economic advisors to Zaire in the near future. The Zairian official reportedly asked Shamir to speak to American Administration officials regarding America's lukewarm relations with Zaire, Pazner said.

According to Nyati, the U.S. Congress makes it difficult for Zaire to get the foreign aid it needs. Shamir promised to raise this matter with Secretary of State George Shultz when the two men meet for talks late in the day Monday followed by dinner on a yacht.

Meeting With Rumanian Official

Foreign Minister Ioan Totu of Rumania also asked Shamir to intervene on its behalf with the U.S. when he met with Shamir Monday. The Rumanian official and Shamir discussed a number of issues, including the possibility of Israel taking up the matter of its Most Favored Nation status with American officials.

Rumania, which benefits from the MFN status, has come under critical scrutiny in light of reported human rights violations and a recent report that a Sephardic synagogue in Bucharest was razed despite repeated assurances that the synagogue would be spared in a massive urban renewal project in the Rumanian capital. Shamir reportedly told Foreign Minister Totu that Israel was pleased with the ongoing Jewish emigration from Rumania and would say so in meetings with American officials.

A representative of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations testified before the House of Representatives in June, saying progress had been made on the human rights fronts and especially on the issue of Jewish emigration from Rumania. Over the past six years, according to this testimony, 25 percent of the Jewish community was permitted to emigrate.

In his meeting with Shamir, Totu categorically denied that Rumania provided military aid to the PLO. He said Rumania supports a role for the PLO in Middle East peace talks but opposes terrorism.

Shamir was also scheduled to meet Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Esmat Abdel-Meguid Monday evening.

U.S. WELCOMES APPOINTMENT BY ISRAEL OF ARAB MAYORS IN WEST BANK CITIES

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 (JTA) -- The State Department welcomed Monday the appointment by

Israel of Arab mayors in three major West Bank cities. "We welcome the restoration of Arab authority to West Bank municipalities," State Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman said. "We are hopeful that means can be found to restore Arab control in other towns in the occupied territories."

Israel announced Sunday that Dr. Abdel Majid E-Zir, a physician, was appointed mayor of Hebron; Halil Mussa Halil, a restaurant owner, was named mayor of Ramallah; and Hassan A-Tawil, a businessman, mayor of El Bireh.

Redman said the general position of the United States is that "we support increased control over their own affairs by the Arab inhabitants throughout the occupied territories through developments which have the support of the local population."

Secretary of State George Shultz has long urged the need for the improvement of the quality of life of Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza. Shimon Peres during his two years as Israeli Premier has sought to provide this through allowing the Palestinians to take more responsibility for control of their daily lives.

Peres has aimed at developing a moderate leadership that would lessen the influence of the Palestine Liberation Organization and be willing to join with Jordan in negotiations with Israel. The three newly-appointed mayors have close ties with King Hussein.

EGYPTIAN F.M. SAYS PLO SHOULD PLAY EQUAL ROLE IN MIDEAST PEACE CONCLAVE By Margie Olster

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 29 (JTA) -- Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Esmat Abdel-Meguid told the General Assembly in his address Monday that Egypt supports an international conference on peace in the Middle East which would include an equal role for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Meguid, who was scheduled to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir Monday evening, said the summit meeting in Alexandria last month between Israeli Premier Shimon Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak represented "a serious endeavor to revive the peace process."

Meguid characterized the meeting as "a step towards increased flexibility, a deeper awareness of the centrality of the Palestinian question and a key to comprehensive tackling of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Meguid supported "dialogue and negotiation" as the best means of achieving peace, but stressed that the Palestinian question remains "the crux of the conflict." He said Egypt is "best equipped" to represent the Palestinians as "a direct party to this dispute."

The essentials of a settlement with the Palestinians, Meguid said, include the restoration of "their occupied territories in the West Bank, including Arab Jerusalem, Gaza, and the Syrian Golan Heights," as well as the right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state in cooperation with Jordan.

There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated October 6, Rosh Hashanah.

PERES' ROSH HASHANAH MESSAGE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 29 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres issued the following message to Jewish communities on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah 5747:

On the threshold of the New Year we greet you from Israel and Jerusalem, in the spirit of brotherhood and partnership, and extend to you an open invitation to continue to participate in Israel's spiritual and material advancement and, to Jewish youngsters in particular, to come and settle in Israel.

Two years have elapsed since the establishment of the national unity government, and, while we have not yet solved all the problems confronting us, we certainly have nothing of which to be ashamed.

In the domains of internal affairs, the economy and defense, the fruits of our efforts are clearly perceptible. There has been a substantial reduction in inter-communal tensions. An improvement may be noted in Jewish-Arab relations within Israel. Altogether, there has been a change in the national style.

As for the economy, we have brought about a veritable revolution. We took an inflation-ridden economy and set it on its feet -- with all the pain this has involved, but also with all the positive results: Inflation has been drastically reduced. The Israel Shekel has been rehabilitated. The balance of payments has improved. Exports have increased.

In Israel's international standing, too, we are perceived as a nation striving earnestly and vigorously for peace.

Marked Improvement In International Relations

Our relations with the United States of America have been enhanced with several new enterprises -- from the Free Trade Zone Agreement to wide-ranging political and strategic cooperation. Our relations are marked by an unprecedented degree of intensity and understanding.

A marked improvement has taken place in our standing in Europe, Africa and Latin America. Diplomatic relations have been restored with a number of important countries -- from Spain, in Europe, to Ivory Coast and Cameroon, in Africa.

Let us not underestimate -- though one should not exaggerate either -- the importance of the signs of change being manifested in the Eastern bloc, including the Soviet Union. On the Asian continent, too, we are getting signals indicating positive movement, whether openly expressed or still latent.

Changes In The Middle East

A profound change has also taken place in Israel's position in the Middle East. Where previously all the countries of the region either turned their backs on us or pointed an accusing finger -- now, this attitude has been replaced, at least among some of these countries, by a certain readiness to listen and more restrained language.

Worthy of particular note, among the events in the region, have been the following: the end of the war in Lebanon; the resumption of dialogue with Egypt; a change in our settlement policy in Judea and Samaria; a reduction in the tension between Israel and Jordan; Jordan's readiness to look for a Palestinian partner for peace talks while rejecting a 'Palestinian partner' who will prevent the advent of peace; and the public

meeting with the King of Morocco, who is also the head of the Islamic Conference and a prominent Arab leader.

These are important steps on the road to regional peace -- and we must seek out ways to continue the march along that road. Practical Zionism never contented itself with the role played, here in the Land of Israel, by the Jews as individuals, but aspired to carry out tasks that can be carried out only by full-fledged nations.

Practical Zionism also believed that basic human needs create the right to provide for these needs. Thus we have always believed that the Jews have an absolute right to freedom from hunger, from ignorance, from insecurity and injustice.

And we have always believed that the Jews have the right to reconstitute their ancient civilization and their nationhood in their ancestral homeland. Inspired and guided by these beliefs, we have acted and we have built. Inspired and guided by these beliefs, we shall continue to act and to build!

Three Principal Tasks

We are faced by three principal tasks: to renew aliya to Israel; to promote peace in our region; to generate growth in our national economy.

The approach of a new Jewish year is the time to remember our brethren-in-distress in the Soviet Union, in Syria and in Iran -- and to pledge that we will not rest until we shall have made it possible for them to be rescued and restored to the land of their fathers.

To every corner of the Jewish world, an earnest call goes out from Jerusalem, our eternal capital: Come up to Israel! Come join us in the historic venture of reconstruction and nation-building going on here every day!

PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Sept. 29 (JTA) -- A series of proposals to strengthen the status of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and further its economy and development were approved unanimously by a ministerial committee Sunday. The proposals were made by a steering committee headed by Chaim Kubersky.

The ministerial committee agreed that five senior Cabinet Ministers would be in charge of further implementing the basic law which established Jerusalem as the seat of government. They are the Premier and Vice Premier, the Interior Minister, Finance Minister and Minister of Economy and Planning.

They will be authorized to establish by-laws covering all aspects of the basic law. By so doing, the declarative status of the basic law will be guaranteed and given an executive character.

The ministerial committee also decided that science-based industries would be given preferred status in Jerusalem with respect to land prices, tax abatements and grant levels. In addition, a development authority will be established to coordinate the activities of the government and municipal companies operating in Jerusalem.

It will be charged with preparing long-range plans for the development of the city. A company, to be called "Jerusalem," will be created as an economic lever to advance development initiatives. It will have a capital base and receive allocations of assets and State lands.