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**PERES SAYS HE WOULD SAY 'YES'  
IF THE U.S. ASKED FOR ISRAEL'S  
HELP AGAIN IN FREEING HOSTAGES**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday that if the United States asked for Israel's help again in the matter of freeing hostages, his answer would be a firm "yes."

He stressed that the only role Israel played in the arms shipments to Iran was to cooperate with the U.S. for vital aims, such as the release of hostages.

Peres emphatically denied foreign press reports that millions of dollars had been transferred to Israel and Switzerland for the purchase of arms for the Contras, the Reagan Administration-backed rebels trying to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

Israel has not sold weapons in the alleged deals for the Contras, reported in the New York Times, U.S. News and World Report and other publications, the Foreign Minister said on an Israel Radio interview.

**KIRKPATRICK; ISRAEL PLAYED ONLY A  
'MARGINAL ROLE' IN IRAN ARMS SALES DEAL**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Jeane Kirkpatrick, the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, maintained here Monday that "Israel has every reason of its own to aid the Contras," the Reagan Administration-backed rebels trying to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua. But she added that Israel played only a "marginal role" in the Iran arms sales deal.

Kirkpatrick made her comments at the opening session of the "Jeane Kirkpatrick Forum" at Tel Aviv University, so named for her championship of Israel at the UN. At a press conference earlier, she discussed the troubles facing the Reagan Administration from the sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of the proceeds to the Contras in possible violation of the law as it stood at the time.

According to Kirkpatrick, the Sandinistas are "sworn enemies of Israel" who have "forged ties of blood" with the Palestine Liberation Organization. "The first Embassy to open in Nicaragua after the Sandinistas took over was that of the PLO," Kirkpatrick claimed.

**Says Israel Had Right To Aid The Contras**

She said the small Jewish community in Nicaragua was forced into exile and even if the struggle in Central America was not Israel's fight, Israel had the right to aid the Contra underground. And if the U.S. turned to Israel for advice, Israel had to do so to the best of its ability, she said.

Israel, while acknowledging a role in the shipment of U.S. arms to Iran at the request of the Reagan Administration, has firmly and repeatedly denied any involvement in or knowledge of the transfer of monies from the sale to the Contras.

U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, at a November 25 White House press conference,

implicated Israel directly in the transfer, saying that "representatives of Israel" transferred profits from the Iranian arms deal to Swiss bank accounts maintained by the Contras.

Kirkpatrick said "I do not believe the relationship between Israel and the United States will suffer because of the events surrounding Iran and the hostages."

The Reagan Administration said at one point that the arms deal was an effort to free American hostages being held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. At other times it insisted it was not trading arms for hostages but was attempting to send a "signal" to Iran that it wanted to improve relations with Teheran and to establish links with Iranian "moderates" who might eventually replace the Islamic fundamentalist regime of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

**Defends President Reagan**

Kirkpatrick defended President Reagan in her press conference remarks and appeared to hold others in his Administration responsible for Reagan's difficulties. The President bore "ultimate responsibility," the former envoy said, but direct responsibility rested on Secretary of State George Shultz, White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan and Meese.

She said the affair had shown "shocking levels of disagreement" between Reagan and his senior advisors. Shultz, appearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington Monday morning, upheld the President's overall policy in the Middle East but reiterated that he had opposed arms to Iran and that he knew "zero" about the transfer of funds to the Contras.

"I have a sense that at a certain critical point, the President was sort of pushed on the stage, out front, and given the burden of trying to explain and defend policy, that his principal advisors were sort of bringing up the rear," Kirkpatrick said. "They had initiated a policy in which they had failed."

At another point she said she was "amazed" to learn that senior Administration officials were responsible for the sale of arms to Iran via Israel, and the flow of funds to the Contras.

In reply to a question, she said she was not a candidate for the Vice Presidency in 1988. She hinted, however, that she might replace Shultz should he resign.

President Chaim Herzog of Israel, who attended the opening of the Tel Aviv University forum, praised Kirkpatrick as a "great American and true friend" of Israel. "We are happy that your long-term and courageous connection with Israel now receives a permanent stamp," he said, referring to the naming of the forum in her honor.

**TABA ARBITRATION PROCESS BEGUN**

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Israeli and Egyptian delegations exchanged documents ratified by their respective governments at a brief meeting Monday to set in motion the arbitration process to settle their border dispute over Tabá.

The meeting took place at a villa in the village of Genthoux, about 10 minutes' drive from Geneva. The international arbitration panel will hold its first meeting, largely ceremonial, at the Geneva Town Hall Wednesday morning. The delegations will return to Genthoux for further talks on procedural matters, which are expected to be finished by Thursday. The panel will then adjourn and reconvene in Geneva in five months.

Robi Sabel, head of the Israeli delegation, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the atmosphere at the initial talks was friendly and cordial. The arbitration panel consists of three distinguished international jurists. Judge Gunnar Lagergren of Sweden presides. His associates are Dietrich Schindler of Switzerland and Pierre Bellet of France.

The Israeli and Egyptian delegations will each be assisted by counsel from outside the Middle East. Israel has selected Prof. Eli Lauterpacht, a British expert in international law, to present its claim to the Taba strip. The Egyptian claim will be argued by Sir Ian Sinclair, a former legal advisor to the British Foreign Ministry.

#### SUSPECTED JEWISH UNDERGROUND MEMBER WHO ESCAPED ARREST IS NABBED AT BG AIRPORT UPON HIS RETURN FROM U.S.

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Ira Rapoport, the only suspected member of a Jewish terrorist underground in the West Bank to escape arrest, was taken into custody at Ben Gurion Airport Sunday on his return from the United States. He was released on bail by a Petach Tikva magistrate Monday pending formal charges.

He is expected to be charged with membership in a terrorist organization and participation in attacks on prominent Palestinians in the West Bank. According to his lawyer, Yaacov Weinroth, a plea bargaining agreement has been reached with the prosecution.

Rapoport, a resident of the West Bank settlement of Shilo, was sent to the U.S. as an emissary of the Gush Emunim. When the Jewish underground members were rounded up two years ago and brought to trial, Rapoport remained in the U.S. rather than face charges.

He told reporters at the airport that he stayed there only to be with his mother who was ill with cancer. He said the disease is now in remission and he decided to return to Israel with his wife Orit and five children, because he wants to raise his children in Israel.

Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, Rabbi Moshe Leviner, the Gush Emunim leader from Hebron, and other West Bank Jewish settlers continued to maintain their vigil outside the homes of Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Vice Premier Shimon Peres in support of demands for Presidential pardons for underground members still serving their prison sentences.

#### 2,000 PEOPLE, MOSTLY GENTILES, MARK BEN GURION CENTENNIAL IN HELSINKI

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- More than 2,000 people, most of them gentiles, attended a David Ben Gurion centennial gathering in Helsinki, Finland, last week, under the auspices of Jewish

National Fund world chairman Moshe Rivlin. The chairman, back from a tour of Scandinavia, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Sunday that the interest in JNF's work among non-Jews in all the Scandinavian countries was phenomenal -- especially in view of the small Jewish communities in those countries.

In Norway, he said, another mass rally took place with a Ben Gurion-JNF theme. In Denmark, Rivlin was welcomed at the Royal Palace and discussed with a clearly fascinated Crown Prince Frederik Israeli methods of afforestation and land reclamation. Rivlin said the Prince was both informed and interested in matters of ecology and quality of life in Israel.

At the gathering in Oslo, Rivlin said: "Some sixty percent of Israel's total area is the Negev, and we are enjoined to pursue David Ben Gurion's vision of turning this barren space into fertile and productive land."

#### SIX JEWISH ATHLETES AND OFFICIALS TO BE INDUCTED IN JEWISH HALL OF FAME

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Six Jewish athletes and sports officials will be inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in Netanya, Israel early next year, it was announced by Joseph Siegman of Los Angeles, chairman. They are:

\*The late Senda Berenson, the first director of physical education (1892-1911) at Smith College, Northampton, Mass., and chairperson of the U.S. Women's Basketball Committee from 1905-1917. She was one of the first three women inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame, Springfield, Mass.

\*Alain Calmat, the French Minister of Youth and Sports. He was a world champion figure skater from 1963-65 and the European champion from 1962-64. He placed second in the 1964 Olympics. He is a practicing surgeon and the only Jewish athlete ever to light the Olympic torch, opening the 1968 Winter Olympics in Grenoble, France.

\*Sir Arthur Abraham Gold, a British high-jumper who competed internationally in 1937. He served as coach and honorary secretary of the British Amateur Athletic Board from 1965-77 and later as president of the European Track and Field Association.

\*Boris Gurevich of the Soviet Union, a Greco-Roman wrestler who was a world champion in the flyweight division from 1953-55 and winner of an Olympic gold medal in 1952.

\*Valentin Mankin of the Soviet Union, the only yachtsman to win Olympic gold medals in three different classes of boats: Solo, 1968; Tempest, 1972; and Star, 1980. He took a silver medal in the Tempest class in the 1976 Olympics.

\*Szabados Miklos of Hungary, whose 16 world table tennis championships included one singles title (1931), six doubles titles (1929-35) and three mixed doubles titles (1931, 1934 and 1935).

The six inductees, chosen by the International Selection Committee chaired by Haskell Cohen of Fort Lee, N.J., will join 83 others. The Hall of Fame was founded in the United States by the U.S. Committee Sports for Israel in 1978, and has been housed at the Wingate School of Physical Education, Netanya, for the past six years.



## WEST BANK VIOLENCE CONTINUES

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Violence flared in the West Bank for the fifth consecutive day with confrontations between Israel Defense Force troops and rock-throwing, tire-burning mobs blocking roads and assaulting Israeli vehicles. Three Israeli civilians and a border policeman were injured by rocks Monday.

A 12-year-old Palestinian boy was shot to death by soldiers in a melee at the Balata refugee camp near Nablus Monday and six other Palestinians were wounded there and in the Sanjeis and Abu Dis villages near Jerusalem.

The unrest gathered momentum after the fatal shooting of a 14-year-old Palestinian at the Balata refugee camp by border police last Friday. That incident followed on the heels of a riot at Bir Zeit University near Ramallah Thursday in which two 22-year-old Palestinian students were killed by the IDF.

The civil administration ordered the Bir Zeit campus closed until January 3, after the Christmas holidays. Curfews were imposed Monday on Ramallah and El Bireh.

The IDF declared a policy of restraint and security forces are trying as much as possible to avoid clashes with demonstrators, a military spokesman said Monday. According to the spokesman, soldiers open fire only when their lives are clearly endangered or demonstrators block the main highways and refuse to disperse.

Arab businesses in East Jerusalem and most West Bank cities remained closed Monday in a commercial strike called Sunday to protest the killings of Arab youths by the IDF.

## WJCONGRESS DELEGATION MEETS WITH PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL

BRASILIA, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- A World Jewish Congress delegation visiting here last week submitted to the Foreign Ministry the secret United Nations War Crimes Commission file on Austrian President Kurt Waldheim which labeled him a Nazi war criminal. The file, dating from 1947, recommended that Waldheim stand trial for "murder" and "putting hostages to death" when he was a Wehrmacht intelligence officer in the Balkans during World War II.

The delegation, headed by WJC president Edgar Bronfman, also handed over the text of a 1946 resolution by the Organization of American States (OAS) which called on all nations in the Western hemisphere to bar entry of former Nazis. The WJC noted that the Foreign Ministry pledged its continued cooperation in bringing Nazi war criminals to justice.

Bronfman and his group met for an hour with President Jose Sarney who spoke of his country's desire to strengthen relations with Israel. In response to a suggestion from Bronfman, Sarney said Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would be most welcome to come here on an official visit.

He said cooperation with Israel has been increasing steadily, especially in the fields of high technology. Brazil in recent years forged strong ties with Arab countries, particularly Iraq from which it receives most of its oil and to which it sells arms.

Both President Sarney and Foreign Minister Roberto Abreu Sodre expressed sympathy for the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union and deplored the fact that free emigration for Soviet Jews has

not materialized. The two spoke warmly of the contributions of Brazil's Jewish community to national life and culture.

## AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY UNCOVERS ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS ABOUT U.S. JEWRY'S PROTEST OF DAMASCUS AFFAIR

WALTHAM, Mass., Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Original documents detailing a joint effort by four American Jewish communities in 1840 to protest the torture of Jews in Damascus have been uncovered by the American Jewish Historical Society.

The papers include handwritten letters from Moses Montefiore, the Sheriff of London and the most prominent Jewish leader in the world at the time, and U.S. Secretary of State John Forsyth, as well as minutes from public meetings protesting what is widely known as The Damascus Affair.

"Historically, this is an extremely important discovery," according to Bernard Wax, director of The Society who recently discovered the letters in a metal container among the papers of the late Rabbi Edward Klein of the Free Synagogue in New York.

"The Damascus Affair was a pivotal event in American Jewish history," Wax said. "It marked the first time there was an organized protest involving more than one Jewish community to protest outrages against Jews in another country."

The Damascus Affair was a blood libel that occurred in Syria in 1840 when 13 Jews were imprisoned and tortured for the alleged ritual murders of a Christian monk and his servant. Two prisoners died from the torture and one converted to Christianity.

The Blood Libel Becomes A Global Affair

The incident exploded into an international affair. Most of the protests were led by Montefiore and by Mordecai Manuel Noah, founder of the New York Herald and the Sheriff of the Port of New York, and Rabbi Isaac Leeser of Philadelphia, two of the most prominent American Jews in the 19th century.

Minutes of meetings held in American communities protesting the imprisonment and torture of the Jews in Damascus, newspaper clippings describing the protests here and abroad, a letter to then President Martin Van Buren, and other correspondence and resolutions, were among the papers uncovered by The American Jewish Historical Society.

Wax said the papers apparently were originally given to Rabbi Stephen Wise (Rabbi Klein's predecessor at the Free Synagogue) in 1896 by Max Kohler, an attorney, author, and former secretary of The Society who was an avid collector of documents relating to American Jewish history.

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RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) -- Letters mailed from here during the first seven days of December were posted with a stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of the birth of David Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel. According to instructions issued by the Postmaster General, the Ben Gurion stamp was also used on mail from Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre, Recife and the capitals of all of Brazil's 23 provinces between December 1-7. In Brasilia, the national capital, the Ben Gurion stamp will be carried on mail posted for the next 120 days.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

## IRANIAN JEWS COMING TO SAN FRANCISCO

By Nadine Joseph

(Correspondent, Northern California Jewish Bulletin)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Jews fleeing religious persecution in Iran have resettled in the San Francisco area in the last few months, and more are expected to join them soon. Because of the new influx, Jewish Family & Children's Services (JF&CS) in San Francisco recently hired a Farsi-speaking caseworker, Karen Pliskin, to help resettle the Iranians.

Within the last several months, 15 Iranian Jews have resettled here, and 35 more are expected to arrive soon. This marks the largest exodus to the Bay Area from Iran since the wave of Jews leaving after the popular Islamic revolution overthrew Shah Mohammed Riza Pahlavi in early 1979, according to Gayle Zahler, supervisor of emigre services at the JF&CS.

At that time, about 800 Iranian Jews--about 200 families--settled in the Bay Area. Iranian Jews in the area now total about 1,500. The Jews who will be arriving in the next several months will be coming from processing points in Vienna and Rome, explains Zahler. About 60 to 70 Iranian Jews headed for North America arrive every week in Vienna, she says.

Most of the recent refugees have been unable to take money from Iran, asserts Pliskin, noting that their situation belies the popular misconception in the Jewish community that Iranian Jews have fled with all their wealth.

Aid For The Refugees

Pliskin works with relatives to find refugees a home and a job. Financial aid from the agency can range from very little -- if the family can afford to support newly arrived members -- to \$1,000 a month for a family of three, she explains.

Many of the refugees speak English, although some newly arrived Iranian Jews do not, Pliskin says, adding that few have transferrable skills even though they have founded and successfully developed their own businesses in Iran. "These are the people who really tried to stay on in Iran," says Pliskin about the new wave of refugees. "Maybe they felt there was hope that the economy would become better. But the conditions have become worse for all minorities."

She adds: "One of the major problems is that the Iranian Jews feel that there hasn't been much outreach by the American Jews -- not much of an attempt to get to know them and their culture--not as much as with the Russian Jews."

About 500 Jews are believed to be jailed in Iran, many because they are accused of being Zionists. The lone Jewish representative in Parliament, Manoucher Kahni Nikruz, was arrested last month on what has been characterized by the Western press as trumped up charges of sexual abuse. The arrest is believed to be in reaction to the American media's publicizing Israel's role in organizing secret deliveries of American arms to Iran as part of a White House plan to secure the freedom of American hostages being held by pro-Iranian terrorists in Lebanon.

Although Israeli officials report that some 40,000 to 50,000 Jews remain in Iran, refugees place the remnant at 15,000 to 20,000, many of them elderly people afraid of uprooting themselves

-- despite daily harassment and threats. According to emigres, no terror campaign now is under way against Jews in Iran. What is taking place, however, is the continuation of a slow and systematic policy of discrimination against all religious minorities, says Pliskin.

Anti-Semitic And Anti-Zionist Overtones

The policy has anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist overtones, she reports. Jewish children attending mixed schools are forced to chant "Death to Israel" and other anti-Zionist slogans before they can enter school each day. Some, Pliskin says, have been pressed to convert. Jews also find it increasingly difficult to get necessary licenses for commercial activities, Pliskin adds.

Jewish families, she says, have become anxious about spiriting their children out of Iran because of what refugees describe as attempts to indoctrinate them in school. A four-year-old statute makes it illegal for children under the age of 12 to leave Iran.

Iranian Jews coming to the Bay Area report that many of the Jews want to escape being drafted into the army for the war against Iraq. Those who leave do so with a heavy heart, explains Pliskin, noting that Jews have living in Iran since 700 BCE.

Prejudice Against The Jews

Prejudice against the Jews began before the State of Israel was born, with the Jam Abbasi laws which considered Jews and other non-Muslims to be polluted. Those laws were repealed during the reign of the Shah's father, who supported religious minorities. When Israel became a State, the Shah maintained diplomatic contact with Israel; many Iranians left for Israel, but others came back to Iran from their self-imposed exile.

The exodus of Iranian Jews began in the tumultuous weeks before Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned from exile to lead the revolution against the Shah. At the time, El Al airplanes were permitted to fly into Teheran and return to Israel with thousands of Jews, many of them wealthy businessmen.

In his first speeches, Khomeini promised that Iran's 75,000 Jews would be respected and protected. But after the seizure of the American Embassy in 1979, grassroots revolutionary organizations began harassing Jews in Teheran and other cities.

## CLARIFICATION

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- A report on the world Jewish population in the December 2 Daily News Bulletin inadvertently dropped a key word when it stated that the number of Jews by the end of 1985 was down to 9.5 million. The report should have clearly stated that the 9.5 million figure related only to diaspora Jewry. There are some 3.5 Jews in Israel. The total, therefore, for world Jewry is some 13 million.

The report on world Jewry was prepared by a committee on demographics appointed by the World Zionist Organization Executive. The committee was appointed two months ago and submitted its report last week. The committee comprised several WZO Executive members, Hebrew University scholars, representatives of the government's Center for Demography, the World Jewish Congress, and the American Jewish Committee.