

PERES AND HUSSEIN HAVE REPORTEDLY WORKED OUT ELEMENTS OF AN AGREEMENT ON A CONFERENCE FOR MIDEAST PEACE

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, April 30 (JTA) -- The Israeli media reported Thursday elements of an agreement reportedly reached between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and King Hussein of Jordan on an international conference for Middle East Peace. The two were said to have met recently in London.

But Peres' office issued a strong denial later in the day. It said the report of an agreement between Peres and Hussein in London was "without foundation" and "part of the production of a rumor and speculation factory aimed at torpedoing the peace process." The statement added that those efforts were doomed to failure, an implication that there was a deliberate campaign afoot to wreck negotiations by publishing rumor.

The media reports referred variously to a working paper or memorandum of understanding which sets the terms of reference and procedures for convening an international conference and has the backing of the United States.

Points In The Agreement

According to the media, the United Nations Secretary General will summon the five permanent members of the Security Council -- U.S., USSR, Britain, France and the People's Republic of China -- and the parties in the Middle East to a conference aimed at achieving a comprehensive peace settlement in the region based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and providing for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The conference will serve as an opening and introduction to meetings of bilateral committees, each composed of Israel and an Arab neighbor. The bilateral committees would attempt to resolve the outstanding differences between the parties in order to reach a comprehensive settlement.

Israel Radio reported Thursday that the memorandum contained a secret annex that includes a Jordanian undertaking to Israel not to include on the Jordanian negotiating team members of the Palestine Liberation Organization, whose presence would cause Israel to immediately to break off the talks.

But there was no commitment that Israel would have advance knowledge of the Palestinian representatives in the Jordanian delegation, Israel Radio said.

It said the annex was an American document conveyed by U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering to Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres. Likud has charged that the entire plan is Peres' and that Pickering in effect served as a "postman" between the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister.

U.S. SAYS THERE HAS BEEN 'SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS' TOWARD PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE MIDEAST

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 30 (JTA) -- The State Department maintained Thursday that there has

been "significant progress" toward bringing about peace negotiations in the Middle East, but would not give any details.

Specifically, Department spokesman Charles Redman would not comment on reports from Israel that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin discussed the way of bringing about an international conference during a secret meeting with King Hussein of Jordan last week.

Redman reiterated the United States position that it was seeking a comprehensive peace in the Mideast through "bilateral direct negotiations."

He repeated that the U.S. is discussing with the parties whether an international conference, as Hussein demands, can bring about such direct talks. But he said that, as yet, "it remains unclear" whether such a conference would lead to "prompt direct negotiations."

Declines To Provide Details

But "clearly there has been significant progress," Redman added. However, when pressed to describe the progress, he refused.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir, who is strongly opposed to such a conference, received a letter from President Reagan this week, urging him not to miss the "historic opportunity" to achieve peace. While Reagan did not ask Shamir to agree to an international conference, he suggested that the proposal be examined.

Shamir's office reiterated Israel's willingness to begin direct talks with Jordan, Egypt and Palestinian representatives based on the Camp David formula. Shamir's position was described to Secretary of State George Shultz last week by Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Arens during a quick visit to Washington. Peres, who denied meeting with Hussein, continues to press for an international conference that would lead to direct negotiations.

According to reports in Israel, Hussein told a visiting American group, the American Council on Foreign Relations, that he would be willing to enter direct negotiations with Israel, following an opening ceremony by an international conference, without the Palestine Liberation Organization. Hussein stressed there would have to be Palestinian representatives.

This is something on which all sides in Israel agree. They also reject any participation by the PLO.

If real progress is achieved it could be signaled by a decision of Shultz to visit the Mideast. Redman said there were no plans at present for Shultz to go to the area. He repeated Shultz's year-long position that he would go to the region "if such a trip can be constructive to help move the peace process forward."

Meanwhile, the next major event in the effort will come when Peres visits Washington in mid-May.

BUSH FAVORS MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE

By Yitzhak Rabi

WASHINGTON, April 30 (JTA) -- Vice President George Bush said Wednesday that he is in favor of an international conference for peace in

the Middle East, provided that the conference is designed to bring about direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan.

But, the Vice President stressed that he would object to such a conference if it would bring the Soviet Union into the peace process and the Mideast.

Bush made his remarks at a Republican Presidential candidates' forum at the Four Seasons Hotel here, sponsored and organized by the National Jewish Coalition (NJC). He said that while he is aware of the differences between Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on the issue of an international conference, he generally welcomes the idea as part of the search for a solution in the Mideast. Peres favors an international conference while Shamir is opposed.

In reply to a question by NJC Board member Dr. Mordechai Hacohen, whether the U.S. plans to demand of the United Nations that it open to the public its files on suspected Nazi war criminals, Bush said he is not fully aware of the Administration's action in this matter but promised to look into it.

Two others who are seeking the Republican nomination as candidates for the Presidency, former Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Rep. Jack Kemp of New York, vowed their continued support for Israel and their commitment to Israel's security and well-being.

Kemp vowed that as President he will recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, move the American Embassy, presently in Tel Aviv, to Jerusalem, and appoint former UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, a staunch supporter of the Jewish State, as his Secretary of State.

POLICE EXPERT SAYS THERE IS A 'VERY HIGH PROBABILITY' THAT A PHOTO ON AN SS I.D. CARD IS DEMJANJUK'S

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 30 (JTA) -- A West German police expert said Tuesday that there is a "very high probability" that the photograph on an SS identification card is that of accused war criminal John Demjanjuk, on trial in Jerusalem district court.

Reinhard Altmann, head of the fingerprint and photographic criminal identification unit of the German federal police, said his conclusion was based on a detailed comparison of seven photographs of the defendant with the photograph on the ID card issued at the Trawniki camp where Demjanjuk allegedly was trained for guard duty at Treblinka.

Altmann, appearing for the prosecution, described the sophisticated technique developed by his unit in Wiesbaden to compare photographs. He said two pictures for comparison are sliced in half vertically and half of one is mounted with half of the other to form a video montage. He said it was thus possible to discern minute facial characteristics which, when combined, "make up the uniqueness of every man."

Altmann told the court that "very high probability" is the second highest on the scale used by his department. The highest level is "near certainty" which, he said, is rarely used because it can be applied only to very detailed photographs taken under very similar circumstances. But the difference between the two levels is "very fine," he said. Demjanjuk's defense contends that the ID card, obtained from the Soviet

Union, is a KGB forgery. Last week a West German handwriting expert testified it was "almost certain" that the signature on the ID card was Demjanjuk's though he could not be positive.

THREE MEN, ONE OF THEM JEWISH, ARRESTED FOR VANDALIZING A PREDOMINANTLY JEWISH COUNTRY CLUB

By Lisa Hostein
Jewish Exponent Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA, April 30 (JTA) -- Three men, one of whom is Jewish, have been arrested for vandalizing a predominantly Jewish country club in Cherry Hill, NJ. They could face five years in jail and/or \$7,500 in fines, according to Camden County, NJ Prosecutor Sam Asbell, whose office is now preparing the case for the county grand jury.

Police in Cherry Hill, where the vandalized Woodcrest Country Club is located, arrested the three men on April 23 and charged them with creating fear of bodily violence and criminal mischief for their attack on the club on April 18.

Maintenance workers discovered anti-Semitic slurs and obscenities spray-painted on the club's main building, on the sidewalk and on a car left overnight at the club. Observers said it was the worst act of anti-Semitic vandalism in years. Black swastikas were also painted on the club's golf course.

After receiving a tip, police arrested Cherry Hill residents Matthew Tannenbaum, 18, and Todd Munro, 19, and Lindenwold resident Jae Kim, 21, according to Cherry Hill police sergeant Frank Ward. All were former employees of the club. Two of the suspects were released on \$5,000 bail and one on his own recognizance.

Asbell said the charge against the three falls under the category of ethnically or racially motivated vandalism, which under New Jersey law is a felony and carries the maximum five-year sentence. He said he did not know when the trial would begin.

Shocked That One Vandal Was Jewish

Woodcrest general manager Robert Sierra expressed "shock" that one of the suspects, Tannenbaum, was Jewish. "Not being a Jew, I just didn't think a Jewish person could be involved in something like this."

Alan Respier, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey, called Tannenbaum's involvement "very disconcerting."

"I don't know what was going through his mind," said Respier, adding that because he was Jewish "doesn't mitigate the fact that he took part in anti-Semitic vandalism and terrorism. The law has to apply to him as it does to anyone who engages in such acts."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA BEIJING UNIVERSITY TO OFFER FORMAL COURSES ON ISRAEL AND JUDAISM

By Rochelle Saidel

ALBANY, April 30 (JTA) -- A university in the People's Republic of China will for the first time offer formal courses on Israel and Judaism this semester. Martin Edelman has been appointed a Visiting Professor in the Department of International Politics at Beijing University.

Edelman, who teaches in the Department of Political Science at State University of New York

(SUNY) in Albany, will teach three courses in Beijing: Israeli politics, Jewry and Jewish culture, and a graduate seminar on American politics in the Middle East.

"Given the previously strained relations between the People's Republic of China and Israel, the fact that these courses will be taught is certainly an indication things are indeed opening up in the right direction," Edelman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "Beijing University is the premier university in the country. Students in these classes will be the next generation of faculty members and government experts on foreign policy."

Edelman will teach at Beijing University during May and June. Several faculty members and advanced graduate students from Chinese universities have studied with him at SUNY in the past, as part of an exchange program between the schools.

The author of "Democratic Theories and the Constitution" and articles on the Israeli courts and political system, Edelman is currently working on a book on Israeli courts. From 1982-1983, he was a visiting professor at Tel Aviv University's political science department.

DEMONSTRATIONS IN SOVIET UNION

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, April 30 -- Two hundred Soviet Jews gathered April 26 in the Jewish section of the Moscow cemetery for services commemorating Yom Hashoah, according to the National Council for Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). The gathering was led by former Prisoner of Conscience Isosif Begun.

There was also a demonstration of 30 people in front of the offices of TASS, the Soviet news agency, asking for the right to go to Israel, the NCSJ said.

It was also announced that Soviet prisoner and refusenik Aleksei Magaryk's three-year sentence for alleged drug possession was reduced by half and he will be released in September, Magaryk's wife, Natasha Ratner Magaryk, told the NCSJ.

Nevertheless, according to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, Magaryk's father, Dr. Vladimir Magaryk, is so concerned about his son's current state of health in a labor camp that he is coming to the U.S. to lobby on his behalf next week. Aleksei Magaryk was reportedly severely beaten in camp.

Edelshtein Due To Be Released Tuesday

In addition, Prisoner of Conscience Yuli Edelshtein is scheduled to be released Tuesday from a labor camp, according to Jewish activists in Moscow, the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry and the SSSJ reported.

Edelshtein was arrested in September 1984 and sentenced in December 1984 to three years, which includes the time served from the day of arrest, according to Soviet law. He is being released four months early. He was also sentenced for alleged drug possession.

But bad news was received on Wednesday from the New England Medical Center with the report that severely ailing refusenik Benjamin Charny of Moscow has been refused a visa once again. Charny, 49, a cancer patient suffering from acute coronary disease and dangerously high blood pressure, has been trying since 1979 to leave the Soviet Union to join his brother, Leon, in Needham, Mass. On Wednesday, Benjamin Charny was

told not only that he was refused, but that he should not reapply until 1995.

Leon, a candidate for a Ph.D. at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been lobbying in Congress and through as many channels as possible for his brother's emigration. Last month, Leon Charny staged a solitary vigil in front of the Soviet Embassy in Moscow.

In early April, he gave testimony on Soviet cancer patients before a hearing of the House Subcommittee on Health at which scientists from the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute discussed an agreement on cancer research between the U.S. and the USSR, which was initiated in 1972, and the issue of divided cancer patient families.

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) initiated a letter to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev asking that Benjamin Charny be permitted to emigrate. The letter was signed by the entire U.S. Senate, a move Leon Charny believes is "unprecedented." Nevertheless, his brother's emigration outlook appears even more distressing. He believes his brother's life expectancy is extremely short.

JEWISH-MOROCCAN RELATIONS BOOSTED

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, April 30 (JTA) -- Jewish-Moroccan relations were boosted as a leader of the American Sephardic Jewish community was awarded one of Morocco's highest honors.

Liliane Shalom of New York, a native of Casablanca, is the first Moroccan woman to receive the Commander of the Ouissam Alaouite, the order of the royal Moroccan dynasty. The award has been presented to one other woman - former United Nations Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick.

"His Majesty (King Hassan II) wants to demonstrate that she remains faithful among the faithful, although she left the country," said Moroccan Ambassador M'hamed Bargach, newly arrived in Washington, as he presented the award to Shalom at the Embassy on behalf of the King. "She is striking evidence of the fidelity of Morocco towards its son and its religious tolerance."

Shalom, 47, was choked with tears as the award was fastened around her neck, and for several minutes she was unable to speak. Her husky voice quivered as she told the guests how during World War II King Muhammad V, the father of Hassan II, protected his Jewish subjects from the pro-Nazi Vichy government.

'... A Debt I Can Never Repay'

"I have a debt I can never repay for the 300,000 co-religionists who owe their lives to his majesty. How much more can one owe but one's life?" Shalom said. "If I had been born in Europe, just fifteen miles away I would have been a victim. But instead I am blessed with three cultures - Jewish, Arab and French."

Shalom is vice president of the Rassemblement Mondial du Judaïsme Marocain which seeks to bring together Jews and Arabs. She is also founder and president of American Sephardic Federation, an umbrella group for Jews of Sephardic origin, and is active in the United Jewish Appeal and Project Renewal.

About 100 persons attended the kosher lunch at the Embassy on Sunday, including Shoshana Cardin, president of the Council of Jewish Federations.

FEDERAL CRACKDOWN ON EXTREMIST GROUPS

By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, April 30 (JTA) -- The latest wave of indictments and arrests of anti-Semitic hate group members in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Denver, Colorado, is part of one of the Federal government's most aggressive crackdowns on criminal activity among extremists in decades, according to an expert of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Three federal indictments handed up last week charged 15 members of white-supremacist hate groups with the murder of Denver talk show host Alan Berg, plotting to murder a federal judge, and engaging in conspiracy to overthrow the American government.

All those charged are affiliated with one of two hate groups, the Aryan Nations and/or the Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord (CSA), according to Irwin Suall, ADL fact-finding director.

Two of the most powerful national leaders of the extremist movements were among those charged and arrested last week, "Reverend" Richard Butler, head of Aryan Nations, and Robert Miles, a former Ku Klux Klan (KKK) member and Midwest coordinator of Aryan Nations.

Butler, 67, is the "pastor" of the vehemently anti-Semitic Church of Jesus Christ Christian in Hayden Lake, Idaho, the headquarters of Aryan Nations. Miles is a one-time Grand Dragon (State leader) of the KKK in Michigan.

Four Indicted In Murder Of Berg

A federal grand jury in Denver indicted four people under the Federal Civil Rights Act in connection with the machine-gun slaying of Berg, a Jewish radio talk show host who provoked racists during his program. Berg was gunned down outside his Denver home in June 1984.

The four indicted, all members of The Order, an Aryan Nations splinter group, were David Eden Lane, 48, Richard Joseph Scutari, 39, Bruce Carroll Pierce, 32, a leader of The Order, and Jean Margaret Craig, 53. Lane and Pierce are both affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ Christian in Hayden Lake.

Federal authorities allege that Pierce carried the sub-machinegun used to murder Berg and was accompanied by Scutari and Lane. Craig allegedly followed Berg and possibly acted as lookout during the murder. The charge carries a maximum life sentence.

Smith, Scutari and Pierce were also named in the indictments in Fort Smith. The Fort Smith federal grand jury indicted the three along with Butler, Miles, Louis Ray Beam Jr., a former Texas Klansman and Aryan Nations "ambassador," Louis Ray Beam Jr., and six others and charged them with sedition, or conspiracy to overthrow the government. Also charged in this indictment were Robert Neil Smalley, 31; Ardie McBrearty, 59, Andrew Virgil Barnhill, 30, and Richard Wayne Snell, 56.

They are charged with counterfeiting and armed robbery as part of the conspiracy to finance their revolution. If convicted, the charge carries a maximum 20-year prison sentence and \$20,000 fine.

Five others were named in a separate indictment in Fort Smith charging them with a plot to murder a federal judge and other officials. They are Snell, named in the sedition charges also, William Wade, 68, Ivan Ray Wade, 34, Lambert

Miller, 36, and David Michael McGuir, 24. Seven of the 15 indicted are currently serving terms in federal prisons. The other eight are either under arrest or being sought.

The federal government has stepped up investigations and prosecution of the hate groups in the past two to three years and is pursuing the members more aggressively and successfully, Suall said.

The increased activity began with the exposure of The Order in 1984 after Robert Jay Matthews, the group's leader and founder, died in a shootout with more than 100 law enforcement agents in Puget Sound.

Since the gun battle, 24 members of The Order were convicted or pleaded guilty to charges of racketeering, murder, bombings and armed robbery.

Two years ago, in April 1985, 300 state and federal officers raided a CSA camp in the Ozark Mountains near Mountain Home, Arkansas. Inside the camp, they discovered an arsenal of machine guns, antitank rockets, grenades, plastic explosives and an abundance of anti-Semitic and racist literature.

The members trained in minefields, and in an area used for target practice the officers found a wooden target which pictured a state trooper with a Jewish star on his chest.

Members of The Order had trained and resided at the CSA camp. In the wake of the raid, four Order members were discovered hiding in the camp and they surrendered.

The leaders of at least two other hate groups, the Arizona Patriots and Committee of the States, are awaiting trials, Suall said.

'A Serious Blow To Hate Movements'

"There is no question that the latest indictments represent a serious blow to hate movements in the U.S.," Suall said. "Depending on the outcome of the trial, it could significantly cripple the hate movements."

Aryan Nations and CSA have been called neo-Nazi, racist, white supremacist and extremist. But according to Suall, the groups are first and foremost anti-Semitic. Jews are considered their main enemy, he said.

"They don't actually call themselves 'Nazis or neo-Nazis'," Suall said. "But most admire Hitler and the Third Reich." They employ Nazi symbols and aspire to establish a separate all-white state in the Northwestern United States.

The members of Aryan Nations and The Order call the United States government the "Zionist Occupational Government (ZOG)" and characterize Jews as the children of Satan.

The hate groups are loosely linked in their adherence to a philosophy known as the Christian Identity Movement. The violently anti-Semitic teachings of the movement claim that Jews are the offspring of Satan. Some elements preach the extermination of Jews. The Church of Jesus Christ Christian adheres to the Christian Identity philosophy.

Suall estimates the Aryan Nations have about 500 followers nationwide.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union in April totalled 717, of whom 168 went to Israel, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported Thursday.