

PERES, SHULTZ HAVE ONE HOUR MEETING
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 30 (JTA) -- The peace process in the Mideast and the prospects for an international peace conference was the key topic in an hour-long meeting Wednesday morning between Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The meeting was held at the United Nations Plaza Hotel here across from the UN, where both officials were attending the General Assembly.

"We discussed the upcoming visit of Shultz to the Mideast," Peres said after the meeting. "I told the Secretary that I am glad that his trip to Israel takes place prior to his visit to Moscow, where we would like him to discuss with the Soviets the Mideast peace process and the issue of Soviet Jews."

Shultz is expected to visit Israel, Jordan and Egypt, in that order, starting Oct. 16. He is scheduled to arrive in Moscow Oct. 22. In Israel he will receive honorary doctorates from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot and Tel Aviv University.

Peres said that he also raised with Shultz the Administration's intention to sell new American arms to Saudi Arabia. The Foreign Minister said he told Shultz that Israel will not change its mind and will continue to oppose the sale of arms to the Saudis. Shultz responded, according to Peres' aides who participated in the meeting, that the proposed arms sale to the Saudis should be seen as part of the Administration's efforts to strengthen U.S. interest and influence in the Persian Gulf region.

The two officials also discussed ways to help Israel's aviation industry following the Israeli government's decision to scrap the Lavi jet fighter project. According to Peres' aides, Shultz and Peres touched on the issue of finding new employment for the thousands of workers who lost their jobs as a result of scrapping the Lavi project.

Peres also met Wednesday late afternoon with Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian and Egyptian Foreign Minister Abdel Esmat Meguid. The meeting with the Chinese official is the first-ever open meeting between Israel's and China's Foreign Ministers.

SHAMIR IS HAPPY OVER SHULTZ VISIT
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday that he will be "very happy" to welcome Secretary of State George Shultz when he comes to Israel next month but made clear that nothing will alter his adamant opposition to an international conference for Middle East peace.

Shamir said he had "not heard" anything from the U.S. State Department to indicate that Shultz is coming here to discuss prospects for an international conference. "No doubt all the various possibilities will be discussed," he told reporters during a visit to tourism facilities near the Sea of Galilee. But, he added, Shultz "is not coming here to argue. He knows my views... The

State Department people know my position. They certainly aren't coming here to argue."

The Prime Minister said he was "always ready to hear all views" but his opposition to an international conference, strongly advocated by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, "was long held and not temporary."

Shultz is due in Israel on October 16, before he goes to Moscow for arms control talks. State Department spokesman Charles Redman announced his trip at the United Nations Monday.

Shultz's visit to the region has raised speculation among observers here and abroad as to what the Secretary of State hopes to accomplish. Shultz has said repeatedly over the last four years that he would not return to the Middle East unless there was concrete progress in the peace process.

At the moment, the process is stalemated, with the Israeli government sharply divided over an international conference. King Hussein of Jordan refuses to move without the conference umbrella. There is no agreement on the nature of Palestinian representation at peace negotiations and even those parties advocating such a forum have differing ideas on how it should be set up and what authority if any it should have in formulating peace agreements between the Israelis and Arabs.

Shamir said he did not believe Shultz coordinated his plans with Peres who is presently in New York for the United Nations General Assembly's 42nd session. Peres has met twice with Shultz but Shamir said he was certain they did not make any arrangements behind his back. "This (the Mideast visit) is Shultz's own initiative," the Premier said.

Nevertheless, observers here see Shultz's personal re-engagement in Mideast diplomacy after a long lapse as a diplomatic and political success for Peres. The latter had been urging Shultz to come to the region to promote the peace conference scenario. But until now he preferred to stay away. He dropped tentative plans to tour the region last June.

ISRAEL, S. AFRICA IN BARTER DEAL
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 30 (JTA) -- Israel has entered a barter deal with South Africa to exchange non-military aircraft for coal, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal announced Monday. Israel Radio said a South African coal mine would receive Astra executive jet planes manufactured by Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI).

Shahal insisted that the barter arrangement in no way contravenes the Inner Cabinet's decision of September 16 to drastically curtail trade with South Africa and impose other sanctions against the apartheid regime.

About 250,000 tons of South African coal will be sold by the Israel National Coal Corp. to the Israel Electric Corp. The \$7 million paid for the coal will be debited to the South African mine and credited to IAI. Shahal said this was not a "new sale to South Africa" but a new form of barter payment for the continuation of existing contracts for South African coal.

He said a similar Astra jets-for-coal deal is being negotiated with an Australian mine.

ISRAEL REJECTS SOVIET OFFER

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA) -- Israel rejected an offer by the Soviet Union that the two countries open "interest offices" in Tel Aviv and Moscow, respectively, as a temporary substitute for the re-establishment of full diplomatic relations which the USSR broke 20 years ago, Maariv reported Wednesday.

According to Maariv, the offer was made by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze when he met with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in New York last week. Interest offices, the lowest level of diplomatic representation, were established by Israel and Poland earlier this year and soon will be established by Israel and Hungary.

Shevardnadze told Peres it would be a "step to improve relations" between their countries; Maariv reported. But Peres turned him down, saying Israel-USSR relations must be on a higher level than relations with Poland and Hungary.

Sources here said the Soviet offer indicated a positive change in Moscow's attitude but was an attempt nevertheless to circumvent Israel's demand for full diplomatic ties, a pre-condition for Soviet participation in the proposed international conference for Middle East peace.

BEATEN BODY OF IDF SOLDIER FOUND By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA) -- Police are investigating the possibility that terrorists were responsible for the death of an Israel Defense Force soldier, Hanoch Steve Denman, whose badly beaten body was discovered in a field of Kibbutz Farod near the Acre-Safad highway Monday night.

He was the second IDF soldier slain this month. Alexander Arad, 43, was fatally stabbed September 24 while trying to hitch a ride near Meggido. A suspect, arrested shortly after the crime, proved to be a Palestinian Arab from the West Bank with a previous record of terrorist offenses. He reportedly confessed.

But Denman, a member of the Army Corps of Engineers, was missing over a week before his body was found by Bedouin shepherds. Born in Holland to Christian parents, he came to Israel six years ago, converted to Judaism and joined the IDF. He lived alone in Acre and was not reported missing until he failed to return from leave to his military base on the Golan Heights. His parents have come to Israel.

The police offered few details of the murder save to say Denman was beaten around the head. Police sources said that he is believed to have been the victim of a terrorist attack but other lines of investigation are also being pursued.

ISRAELI CABBIE ATTACKED BY ARABS

JERUSALEM, Set. 30 (JTA) -- Police are searching for three Arabs who attacked an Israeli taxi driver in Beit Safafa village south of Jerusalem Monday. The victim suffered multiple stab wounds in the chest but was not seriously hurt. Police are uncertain whether the attack had political motives or stemmed from a quarrel over

the fare. Meanwhile, a military court in Nablus has indicted Suleiman Mustafa Zuheiri, 29, on charges of conspiracy to park a booby-trapped car near government offices in Jerusalem. Zuheiri, a resident of the Nur Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm in the West Bank, is alleged to be a member of the Islamic Jihad wing of El Fatah. He was trained in Pakistan. The police say he prepared the booby trap with ammunition stolen from Israel Defense Force training camps. The car was to have been driven by an Arab woman from Bethlehem.

WARTIME SLAVE LABORERS TO BE COMPENSATED BY GERMAN AUTO FIRM By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 30 (JTA) -- The Daimler-Benz Co. of West Germany, manufacturers of the Mercedes, will pay compensation to slave laborers it employed during World War II when it built tanks and other mobile equipment for Hitler's army, a company spokesman announced in Haifa this week. Many of the slave laborers were Jews.

Bernd Gotschalk, chief of public relations for Daimler-Benz, spoke at ceremonies at Haifa University inaugurating the Gottlieb Schumacher Research Center, established at the university with a quarter-million-dollar grant from Daimler-Benz.

The center will study the Christian contribution to the development of Palestine in the 19th century, particularly the Templars. Gottlieb Schumacher, for whom it was named, was the son of a Templar who worked in Palestine as an engineer in the last century.

Daimler-Benz is headquartered in Stuttgart in the federal state of Wuertemberg where the Templar movement was founded more than 100 years ago. The Templars came to Palestine on extended pilgrimages. They established many "German colonies" in Jerusalem, Haifa and Jaffa. One of the best known, which lasted until the outbreak of World War II, was Sarona, in what was then the outskirts of Tel Aviv. It is presently a government and Israel Defense Force General Headquarters complex.

THAT'S THE TICKET By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30 (JTA) -- A rabbi believed by his Moroccan disciples to possess supernatural powers beat a traffic ticket last Friday by implying a curse of sorts on the police officer who was writing it.

As the story unfolded, Rabbi Baruch Abuhatziera of Netivot, known to his followers as Baba Baruch, had his car stopped on the highway because his driver was not wearing the mandatory seat belt. The rabbi emerged from the car, introduced himself, and politely asked the policeman to tear up the ticket. The latter refused, whereupon Baba Baruch expressed the wish that he not return home safely.

The cop, himself of Moroccan origin, apparently had second thoughts. He contacted his superior officer by radio to explain the situation, remarking that "after all, such things happen." The superior advised him to use his own discretion. The ticket was torn up and Baba Baruch bade the officer a jolly "Shabbat Shalom."

THE JEWS OF ARGENTINA: NOT STRANGERS IN THE LAND

By Aviva Cantor

(Last Part In A Series)

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 30 (JTA) -- The central struggle Argentine Jews are involved in, says Conservative Rabbi Baruj Plavnick, is that "until now our community has been either/or: either you're Orthodox or non-religious; either Zionist or (Jewishly) uninvolved; either Argentinian or Jewish. We want to find ways to be both Jewish and Argentinian."

Many young Argentine Jews, Plavnick among them, feel that for them to be "both Jewish and Argentinian," they need a communal structure which addresses the problems of Argentine society as Jews. They warn, in the words of Hebraica Community Center executive director Alberto Sendercy, that "if we don't express opinions about the whole society, the youth will have no option but to go to other parties" outside the community.

Attorney Paul Warshawsky, who is involved in human rights causes, feels that Jewish youth want "to enter into engagement with current problems." But the official communal structure, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "has not succeeded in putting before the youth a coherent and moral behavior pattern."

The Disappeared And The DAIA

Discussions about the current policies of the DAIA, the officially recognized political umbrella organization for Argentine Jewry, tend to segue very quickly and easily into bitter criticism of what it did and did not do during the junta's reign of terror to help save the estimated 30,000 "desaparecidos" (disappeared), among the 1,500 Jews -- and into the horror stories that everybody has to tell about their own relatives and friends who disappeared at the time. (These are documented in "Nunca Mas: The Report of the Argentine National Commission on the Disappeared," New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1986.)

Many continue to accuse the DAIA of not being supportive of the parents of disappeared children. Matilda Mellibowsky, whose daughter Graciela was a 29-year-old translator at the Ministry of Economic Affairs at the time she was kidnapped in the middle of the street on the Sabbath, September 21, 1976, said, "they should have turned the world upside down" to save the desaparecidos.

Graciela's father, Santiago Mellibowsky, said many parents were told by the DAIA, "you didn't give your children a Jewish education and that's why they were kidnapped." Jacobo Fiterman, a former president of the Zionist Federation, said the DAIA's attitude toward the desaparecidos was that "they must've done something."

He and many other Jews pointed out, however, that many of the young Jews who disappeared were apolitical -- psychologists, teachers, doctors and scientists. The latter include the five Jewish members of the 11-member Atomic Energy Commission, among them 26-year-old Daniel Bendersky. His parents, Fany and Jose Bendersky, are involved with an effort to create a Museum of the Desaparecidos.

There were also people kidnapped for ransom, an estimated 30 percent of whom were Jews. One of them, banker Osvaldo Sivak, still has not returned even though his family paid the ransom.

Said Rabbi Efraim Rosenzweig of Cordoba, "Many people closed their eyes. They didn't want

to see what was happening, like in Nazi Germany." Hans Levin, head of the German Jewish congregation in Cordoba, said this behavior was especially painful for Jews like himself, who lost 95 percent of his family in the Holocaust.

A former official of the DAIA told JTA of his unsuccessful attempts to get them to take action. "If the junta had demanded from them lists of Jews, they would have turned them over," he said.

DAIA president Dr. David Goldberg, queried about the charges, told a visiting North American delegation of Jewish journalists and communal leaders that "the Jewish community did a lot but not enough." Even with one disappeared, "one death, we could say we did not do enough. But was more possible?"

Asked by this reporter whether the DAIA had undertaken since 1983 an evaluation of its actions, he said it had been tried once, unsuccessfully -- "immediately there was the passion, the accusations, the differences." An analysis must be done responsibly and such a "cold analysis" was not possible now, he said.

Filmmaker Aida Bortnik believes that "in Latin America, to look at the past and to try to understand it is very dangerous." She attributed the poor reception Jews gave to her latest film, "Pobre Mariposa" (Poor Butterfly), which deals with anti-Semitism in Argentina in the 1940's and 1950's, to their not wanting to be reminded of their bad experiences in that period.

Contrasting the behavior of the DAIA with regard to the desaparecidos, which they refrain from evaluating, and its present involvement with strictly "Jewish" issues, Warshawsky said:

"The Jewish community cannot use a double standard regarding Jewish and non-Jewish issues and expect to have the youth (remain) in the community. There's no sense in fighting for Soviet Jewry when they are killing people two meters from your own home."

Jewish youth, being more sensitive to social injustice, tend to look outside the community, for what they cannot find inside it. "Every day, we're closer and closer to assimilation," said Fiterman, an engineer who now heads the Public Works Department of the Buenos Aires municipality. "No one sends a message as to why to be a Jew. All we have is our roots."

Element Of A Greek Tragedy

The DAIA has for the past half-century seen as its mandate defending Jews against anti-Semitism and upholding Jewish dignity. It has considered its fulfillment of this mandate a success precisely because of its refusal to "interfere" in the domestic politics of Argentina.

"This has elements of a Greek tragedy," Warshawsky told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "You cannot expect the Jewish community to be engaged in general problems the way they should be, but you cannot expect the Jewish youth to have a double standard."

There are young communal leaders, however, who do not share Warshawsky's pessimism and who feel the community should be expected to be involved with the problems of the country. They seek to break out of the mental ghetto the community has been enclosed in, now that democracy has made possible the open expression of views and ideas and active participation in the society's struggles.

What young leaders like Plavnick, the rabbi of Comunidad Bet El, Conservative Rabbinical

Seminary Rector Daniel Fainstein, the officials at the Hebraica community center, and Jewish Human Rights Movement (JHRM) president Herman Schiller seek is to create a way for Jews to be Argentine Jews, committed to both their Jewishness and their nationality, not simply Jews who happen to be living in Argentina.

"We are looking for Jewish identity, commitment to the Jewish tradition, openness to the world, and interaction between universalism and particularism," said Fainstein. A similar sentiment was expressed by Hebraica executive director Alberto Senderoy: "We're a pluralistic institution interested in Argentine affairs, giving its opinion in defense of Jewish ethics and the interests of the Jewish people."

They seek, in short, to create a "new Argentine Jew" who is "not dichotomized" between these two parts of his or her identity, but rather, has made a synthesis between them; and a new Jewish community, which is also both Jewish and Argentinean and does not feel that one has to be committed only to one or the other identification.

Schiller's statement of the impetus for the JHRM defines the goals of all these "new Jews" of Argentina: "We are trying to give a new character to Jewish identity," he said. "We are struggling so that people will know that we have an involvement in the society, in its daily life, that we are part of the society, and can hold up Jewish pride that we fight for democracy. We want everyone to know that we are not strangers here."

WIESENTHAL DENIES WITHHOLDING INFORMATION ABOUT WALDHEIM

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Sept. 30 (JTA) -- Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal denied here Monday that he ever withheld information regarding Austrian President Kurt Waldheim's wartime activities. At the same time he referred to Waldheim as "a burden for Austria" and thought he should resign even if it is determined he was not personally involved in Nazi atrocities but had knowledge of them.

Wiesenthal spoke at a press conference called to reply to media allegations that he withheld information about Waldheim. The matter was raised after an Italian newspaper, L'Epoca, published a handwritten letter to Wiesenthal from British historian Gerald Fleming, alluding to documents on Waldheim's involvement in the interrogation of British prisoners of war who were later handed over to the SS and executed.

Fleming, a member of an international commission of historians probing Waldheim's past, asked Wiesenthal not to publish the documents.

According to Wiesenthal, Fleming wrote to him two weeks after the West German news magazine Der Spiegel reported on Waldheim's alleged involvement in the interrogations. Waldheim has denied he was present but the British Foreign Office considers the allegations a fact.

Wiesenthal said Fleming's request came during the Austrian Presidential elections in the summer of 1986 when there was an upsurge of anti-Semitic sentiment in Austria because of the World Jewish Congress' exposure of Waldheim's past. Fleming thought the documents should be published by non-Jewish sources, Wiesenthal said.

Wiesenthal, who heads the Nazi war crimes documentation center here, has been criticized in the past for his position that Waldheim, an intelligence officer in the German army occupying the

Balkans during World War II, must have known about atrocities but had no power to order them.

At his press conference Monday, he said "If there was personal guilt and the Commission (of historians) finds out, he (Waldheim) has to take the consequences. If not, which I think, if the Commission finds out that he was one of the best informed officers on the Balkans without any personal, individual guilt, he may decide to step down from his office, for the good of Austria."

Meanwhile, the first publicly acknowledged meeting between a leading Austrian political figure and the World Jewish Congress took place here Monday in an apparent effort to ease the strains which have developed between Austria and the Jewish organization.

Former Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz, a Socialist and current President of the Austrian Parliament, conferred for nearly three hours with WJC president Edgar Bronfman and other WJC officials. He spoke in the name of Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. The participants said later that the meeting was an important move toward repairing Jewish relations with Austria.

5 U.S. ORTHODOX GROUPS PROTEST 'RADICAL DESECRATION' OF JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, Sept. 30 (JTA) -- Five major Orthodox organizations in the U.S. issued a joint statement Tuesday vigorously protesting what they called the "radical desecration" of the unique religious status of Jerusalem by the screening of films there on the Sabbath. Their statement also condemned "the action of the minuscule group of irresponsible hotheads who stoop to stone-throwing in violation of Jewish law."

The latter reference apparently was to ultra-Orthodox residents of Jerusalem who have resorted to violence to force the closure of cinemas.

The statement was issued by the Agudath Israel of America, National Council of Young Israel, Rabbinical Council of America, Religious Zionists of America, and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

It stressed that "Respect for the Sabbath was embodied even in the non-Jewish by-laws of Jerusalem under the British mandate which forbade Sabbath desecration in public facilities of the kind now being perpetrated."

The statement noted that "This policy was maintained as the 'status quo' after the formation of the State of Israel. From the inception of the State, in fact, it was well recognized by all groups in Israel from the right to the left, from the religious to the non-religious, that it was mandatory to preserve the status quo in regard to religious practices -- especially as it relates to the public observance of the Sabbath, kashrut, and matters of personal status -- if Israeli society was to avoid a 'kulturkampf' which bore the seeds of self-destruction."

The Orthodox groups claimed that "the Friday night opening of movie theaters was initiated by a tiny group of secular extremists and commercial interests with the intent of provoking extremists on the other side in order to rally public sentiment in their favor."

The statement emphasized, however, "that the entire Orthodox Jewish community in Israel, including all Orthodox organizations, parties and yeshivos, as well as the entire Orthodox community in the United States, are absolutely opposed to any attempts to solve public disputes through violent or illegal acts . . ."