

## STOPS IN AMMAN, DAMASCUS, CAIRO YIELD LITTLE PROGRESS FOR SHULTZ

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz met with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem and visited three Arab capitals over the weekend. But there were no indications that his shuttle diplomacy has made any headway toward advancing the new American peace plan in the region.

So far, Shultz has been stymied in his attempts to meet with Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He had invited 15 key Palestinian figures for talks in East Jerusalem Friday. None showed up. Apparently they took seriously Palestine Liberation Organization threats against their lives.

The secretary of state flew to Cairo Sunday for several hours of talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He was due back in Jerusalem Sunday night.

Shultz spent Saturday visiting Syria and Jordan. In Damascus, he conferred for more than two hours with the Syrian foreign minister, Farouk al-Sharaa, and later with President Hafez Assad.

He met in Amman with Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid al-Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher al-Masri. King Hussein is presently in London, where he may meet with Shultz on Tuesday. His absence from his capital for Shultz's visit indicated to some American officials that the Jordanian ruler is not ready to make a firm commitment with respect to the American plan.

On Friday, Shultz held separate meetings in Jerusalem with Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He also called on President Chaim Herzog and had a working lunch with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The absence of official statements in Jerusalem or the Arab capitals indicated that despite his grueling schedule and upbeat remarks, Shultz has made little progress so far.

Shultz has been in daily contact with Israeli leaders since his arrival here Thursday evening. His forays to neighboring Arab capitals have been preceded and followed by separate talks with Shamir and Peres in Jerusalem.

The fact that they are still separate is a fair indication of the continuing deadlock between Shamir, leader of the Likud faction, and Labor Party leader Peres over the American plan and the peace process in general.

### Differing Views On Jordan

After Sunday morning's meeting with the two coalition partners, their respective aides offered contradictory versions of what Shultz had told them of his discussions the day before in Damascus and Amman. Foreign Ministry sources said Jordan gave the Americans a "green light" to continue exploring ways to peace.

But according to the Prime Minister's Office, Jordan has taken a tougher position than before. Shamir's and Peres' aides could agree only that the Shultz mission is still in the "exploratory stage."

Officials in Jerusalem believe the objective of Shultz's current round of shuttle diplomacy is

limited to getting a "final assessment" of the Arab and Israeli positions. They say the success or failure of his mission will be determined by his meeting Tuesday with Hussein in London.

Shultz is scheduled to meet President Reagan in Brussels Wednesday. According to sources in Israel, if the situation looks promising, he will come back to the Middle East later this week without returning to Washington.

The Cabinet spent little time discussing Shultz's mission at its regular meeting Sunday. It concentrated instead on the continuing violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Peres disclosed to reporters that the unrest in the territories came up at his meeting with Shultz Sunday morning.

Debate on the American peace mission apparently has been confined to the Inner Cabinet, the government's top policy-making body.

The Inner Cabinet consists of five Labor and five Likud senior ministers. It met last Wednesday, but adjourned after only two hours, unable to forge a unified position in advance of Shultz's arrival.

### Inner Cabinet Session Put Off

Government sources had said the Inner Cabinet would hold at least one other meeting while Shultz is in the region. One was scheduled directly after the full Cabinet session Sunday. But it was postponed until later in the week, after Shultz's departure.

According to Shamir's aides, who spoke to reporters after the prime minister and Shultz had their first meeting Friday, the secretary of state did not offer a fully developed peace plan, only an idea -- and Shamir outlined his own ideas of an Arab-Israeli settlement.

Shamir himself described the meeting as "a very friendly and thorough discussion about many subjects concerning the situation in the area, the aspirations of all of us for getting peace and about our bilateral relations, and something about the international situation."

During the Shultz-Shamir meeting, some 2,000 right-wing demonstrators, most of them wearing skullcaps, protested outside the Prime Minister's Office against what they called Shultz's "enforced mediation." The demonstration was authorized.

Peres' meeting with Shultz on Friday was attended by U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering and Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador to Washington. Peres said later he was impressed by Shultz's presentation, which he thought was "very much to the point," and indicated that "the process has started."

### Palestinians Don't Show

Probably the most frustrating aspect of Shultz's visit was the failure of 15 Palestinian leaders to show up for a meeting he had invited them to at the American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem Friday night.

Undaunted, Shultz read a lengthy statement to the empty chairs. It was made available to the press. Among other things, he stressed that "Palestinians and Israelis must deal differently with one another. Palestinians must achieve control over political and economic decisions that affect their lives," he said.

"What we are seeking must be achieved through negotiations," he said. "Negotiations work. Negotiations produce agreements which meet the fundamental concerns of all parties."

Expressing the hope that one day Israelis and Arabs would cooperate in the areas of science, technology, art and literature, Shultz said, "Our vision is of Israelis and Palestinians living together in peace in this land where the rights of each are respected, where the energies of all are directed at peaceful purposes, where security and trust exist."

The secretary of state warned, however, that "peace-making is difficult. Peace has its enemies," he said in a statement corroborated by the absence of his intended audience.

#### U.S. JEWISH LEADER BACKS SHULTZ, SAYING 'STATUS QUO CANNOT LAST'

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- Declaring that American Jewry wants an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and therefore supports the current efforts by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to bring peace to the area, a leading American Jewish official assured Israelis here Sunday that Shultz would not compromise at Israel's expense.

Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, made the remarks on the eve of a three-day mission that is bringing 60 top American Jewish leaders to Israel.

Abram, who is heading the delegation, said the disturbances in the West Bank and Gaza Strip made clear that "the status quo cannot last indefinitely. There has got to be some change from the status quo," he said.

But he refused to elaborate, saying as "an American who does not live here, who does not vote here and whose sons will not die here, it is not for me to tell the Israeli people."

Abram offered a strong defense of Israel's policy in the administered territories and the conduct of the Israel Defense Force, which has come under increasing international criticism. He said Israel is obliged by international law to maintain law and order in the territories.

He maintained that American public opinion can distinguish between government policy and aberrations by a few individual soldiers, a reference apparently to confirmed incidents of brutality by soldiers against Palestinian civilians.

#### Aberrations Must Stop

According to Abram, no army in the world would act with the restraint shown by the Israel Defense Force in similar circumstances and provocations. However, he added, the aberrations must stop.

Abram said that so far there has been no change of attitude toward Israel on the part of the American administration and the Congress. But if events continue as they are, that could change too, he warned.

The Jewish leader said he was convinced that Israel is not the impediment to peace in the region. "Israel wants peace, has wanted peace for 40 years, seeks peace, but needs a partner," he said. There will be peace if the Arab states and the Palestinian people come forth and recognize Israel, he said.

He reiterated a view shared by some Israelis that the Palestinian homeland is Jordan, not the administered territories.

#### SOLDIER WOUNDED IN LEBANON; NAVY SINKS TERRORIST BOAT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force soldier was slightly wounded when his vehicle came under fire in the southern Lebanon security zone Sunday. The incident occurred north of Beaufort Castle, the ruins of a 12th-century Crusaders' fortress that was a Palestine Liberation Organization stronghold before the 1982 war in Lebanon.

Elsewhere in the security zone, four Islamic guerrillas were killed and three soldiers of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army were wounded in a clash that followed a guerrilla attempt to storm the SLA position.

SLA sources said fire was aimed at them from a nearby post of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon patrolled by Irish troops.

A military spokesman announced, meanwhile, that an Israel Navy patrol boat sank a motorized rubber dinghy carrying terrorist infiltrators from Lebanon Saturday night. The terrorist craft was blown out of the water, the spokesman said.

The incident, which occurred south of the Lebanese port of Tyre, was the latest of an increasing number of attempted seaborne attacks on Israel, none of which has succeeded.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a terrorist group headed by George Habash, claimed responsibility. It said three of its men managed to swim to shore and two were missing.

A small explosive charge detonated outside the Rishon le-Zion sports center Sunday morning without causing casualties or damage.

#### SWISS ARMY OFFICERS' TRIP TO ISRAEL REPORTEDLY SCRAPPED

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- A professional visit to Israel by 180 Swiss army reserve officers was canceled because of the disturbances in the Israeli-administered territories, the Swiss news media reported last week.

There was no official confirmation but the daily La Tribune de Geneve reported Saturday that the trip was abandoned owing to "discreet pressure" from the Foreign Office and Defense Ministry.

Both ministries denied they had applied any pressure. The Foreign Office admitted, however, that it had asked the officers not to wear their uniforms while in Israel and not to visit the West Bank or the Golan Heights.

According to La Tribune de Geneve, the officers decided that a visit by them to Israel under present circumstances could be misinterpreted.

The trip was organized by the Israeli military attache in Bern, Mordechai Alon, with the assistance of the Swiss army chief of staff, Eugene Luthy, who visited Israel last year and returned a "true friend," according to Alon.

The reservists belong to the Association of Swiss Officers, an independent group that schedules trips abroad for its members each year. Last year about 30 toured the United States and inspected military installations there.

Alon told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that when the trip to Israel was announced, 230 officers applied to go, but the number was limited to 180 for logistical reasons.

## LATEST UNREST KILLS NINE, ANGERS LIKUD MINISTERS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- Clashes between rioters and Israeli security forces claimed nine more Arab lives in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during a weekend of unrest. More than a score were reported wounded.

The latest eruptions of violence, among the bloodiest since unrest broke out in the territories Dec. 9, coincided with the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who arrived in Israel on Thursday.

The flare-up triggered angry recriminations at the weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday, where Likud ministers charged the Israel Defense Force was not tough enough suppressing riots and had failed to come to the rescue of an Arab employee of the West Bank civil administration who was lynched by a mob in his home village of Kabatiya on Wednesday.

Likud ministers also demanded that the press and television be barred from the administered territories, a measure forcefully rejected only a few days before by the IDF chief of staff, Gen. Dan Shomron.

Israelis, military and civilian, were stunned, meanwhile, by television newsreel footage showing four soldiers kicking and beating two bound Palestinian youths under interrogation at a military prison, despite explicit orders issued by the chief of staff Tuesday forbidding such behavior.

The footage was made by a CBS News television camera crew and was distributed worldwide. The soldiers involved have been detained for questioning. Their commander was suspended and the two Arabs were released.

### Officers View CBS Film

Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the central sector, which covers the West Bank, summoned the senior officers of all IDF units in the territory Sunday to view the film. "The IDF will not be turned into a mob army," he declared.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chief of Staff Shomron were scheduled to meet late Sunday with soldiers of the unit involved.

Shomron's orders, based on a directive to Rabin from Attorney General Yosef Harish that the IDF clarify its policy to field commanders, stated that physical force was not to be used to punish or humiliate Palestinians and under no circumstances while suspects were in custody and not resisting.

The Arab death toll over the weekend reached nine Sunday when two Palestinians died at a Ramallah hospital of wounds suffered Saturday in the nearby village of Abud.

The IDF is investigating events in Abud, where soldiers were pelted with stones and a main road was blocked. Shots were fired as demonstrators were being dispersed. It was not clear who fired the fatal shots. The IDF reported that several Jewish settlers were seen at the site of the rioting.

Seven other Arabs were killed and at least 20 were wounded Friday and Saturday during riots in the town of Halhoul and the El-Arub refugee camp, both in the Hebron region. El-Arub was placed under curfew, as was the nearby village of Bani Naim. Curfews also were in force at the El Burcij and Jabalya refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian fatalities since Dec. 9 have

reached 76, according to official figures, with 30 killed this month alone. Sources here said the mounting toll of dead and wounded indicate the IDF has reverted to live ammunition to quell riots, because rubber bullets and tear gas have not been effective and the policy of beatings has been restricted.

Fewer incidents were reported in the territories Sunday. A Palestinian youth was wounded in a clash with the IDF in Taiba village near Ramallah. A bus carrying Arab laborers to jobs in Israel was set on fire in Hawara village in the Samaria district of the West Bank.

But most Arabs employed in Israel reported for work Sunday, despite an ongoing commercial strike in the territories.

## UNREST SAID TO UPSET U.S. JEWS, BUT NOT WEAKEN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

MIAMI, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- American Jews' commitment to Israel has in no way been weakened by their anguish over the current violence there, a veteran observer of the Middle East scene said here Friday.

American Jews feel "agony, anguish, frustration -- even anger at times," concerning the clashes between Israeli military forces and Palestinian demonstrators, said Hyman Bookbinder, American Jewish Committee's special representative.

But, he stressed, "it would be a serious mistake to interpret these reactions as rejection of Israel or even a dilution of commitment."

"Over these 10 weeks of violence, the American Jewish community has not used up its energies in agonizing and criticizing," said Bookbinder. "It has recognized the need to help Americans better understand the causes of the conflict and what is needed to eliminate those causes."

Bookbinder made the remarks at a two-day conference sponsored by the Miami Herald and the University of Miami. The forum, which convened at the Omni International Hotel here, was titled "Miami Conference on the Middle East: America, Israel and the Palestinians."

Other speakers at the conference included Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, Middle East specialists and reporters for major American, Israeli and Arab newspapers.

Bookbinder stressed the strength of the "special relationship" between the United States and Israel and noted that a recent survey of presidential candidates conducted by the American Jewish Committee had "provided very reassuring evidence that the next president will continue the American policy of unshakable commitment to the secure existence of Israel."

Turning to media coverage of the Israeli conflict, Bookbinder said, "I do not fault, generally, the press for what it has reported, but I do express disappointment that it has not done enough to provide the background for judging the day's news."

"I cannot fault a TV network for showing a young Palestinian's limp body being carried high by other young Palestinians," he said, "but I regret that there is no available footage showing a fanatical preacher appealing to Palestinian youngsters to go forth with rocks and prepare to die. And I know there can be no pictures portraying the absence of West Bank Palestinians at a negotiating table with the Israelis."

**U.S. SAID TO AVOID ARBITRATION  
OF MOVE TO CLOSE PLO MISSION**

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Friday that the United States had failed to respond to a U.N. proposal to bring the issue of the closing of the Palestine Liberation Organization's U.N. observer mission here to arbitration.

Perez de Cuellar said in a report to the General Assembly that his legal adviser, Carl-August Fleischhaver, requested the United States to name an arbitrator, but the American government ignored his request.

The secretary general's report came three days before the General Assembly was scheduled to meet in a special session the Arab states and the PLO requested to discuss the closing of the PLO office. The session is due to open Monday.

According to diplomats, the Arabs want the General Assembly to ask the International Court of Justice in The Hague to rule on the closure decision.

According to legislation signed by President Reagan on Dec. 22, the PLO mission must be closed by March 31. The Justice Department, charged with implementing the legislation, has so far failed to order the mission closed.

Sources quoted over the weekend by The New York Times indicated such a move is imminent, but probably would be delayed until after Secretary of State George Shultz returns from a peace-making trip to the Middle East.

The Reagan administration already has ordered the closing of the PLO's information office in Washington. The PLO is appealing the decision, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia heard oral arguments in the case Feb. 23.

**JONATHAN POLLARD'S MOTION  
FOR REDUCED SENTENCE DENIED**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard's motion for reduction of his life sentence was denied here last week by the federal district court judge who pronounced the sentence, Aubrey Robinson.

Pollard was not present and the judge made no comment when issuing his ruling. Pollard was sentenced in March for espionage on behalf of Israel.

David Turner, director of the New York-based Justice for the Pollards committee, said the motion was made on the grounds that the federal government overstated the damage of Pollard's activities, that the government reneged on its plea-bargain agreement with Pollard for a lenient sentence in exchange for full cooperation and that in reneging, the government set precedent for lack of trust.

Pollard's former attorney, Richard Hively, had filed the appeal. Alan Dershowitz, a professor at Harvard University, is now serving as Pollard's attorney.

A request to reduce the sentence of Pollard's wife, Anne Henderson Pollard, was declined Dec. 18. She is serving two concurrent five-year terms after being convicted as an accessory to her husband's espionage activities on behalf of Israel.

Her attorney, Nathan Dershowitz, has filed

an appeal in federal appeals court in the District of Columbia.

The attorney emphasized that prison officials have prohibited journalists from interviewing her. He said The New York Times received a letter Thursday denying its request to interview her and asking for submission of a list of questions to be approved by prison and Navy authorities.

**ROMANIA WON'T SEEK MFN STATUS,  
BUT SAYS EMIGRATION TO CONTINUE**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (JTA) -- Romania, whose human rights practices have come under fire from the Reagan administration and Congress, has decided not to seek renewal of its most-favored-nation trade status under the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, the State Department announced Friday.

But State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said the Romanian government "has authoritatively stated to us that it will continue to allow emigration for family reunification purposes without relation to economic ties with the United States."

Oakley welcomed that commitment and said "this concern will continue to be a central part of the U.S.-Romanian dialogue."

Neither Oakley nor a spokesman for the Romanian Embassy provided a reason for Romania's decision, but a senior U.S. official recently described U.S. views toward Romania's MFN status in briefing reporters before Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead's visit to Romania, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

The official said that "Romania would very much regret losing MFN. It would represent something over \$100 million of trade, which is very important to Romania, their economy being as bad as it is."

"They would also suffer the embarrassment of being removed from the list by the United States. That is a public slap in the face."

But the official said the United States has "not been very successful" in prodding Romania to improve its human rights situation and "I do not know whether we really will be very successful in the future."

**Synagogue Threatened**

He mentioned various examples of religious repression in Romania, citing "a central synagogue in Romania that is threatened with being destroyed by the government in the name of redevelopment."

The State Department's recently released report on human rights practices throughout the world during 1987 noted that while emigration increased in 1987, Romania's "human rights abuses remain pervasive."

Both houses of Congress last year passed amendments to the trade bill that would suspend MFN status to Romania for six months. That amendment was dropped Thursday during House-Senate negotiations to draft a final version of that bill.

Each year when renewal has come up, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has backed continuing MFN status.

Last June, Morris Abram, the conference chairman, wrote to all 100 senators expressing the conference's "strong support" of MFN status for Romania.