



MOSCOW SUMMIT DATES ANNOUNCED; PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS URGED

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 23 (JTA) -- President Reagan announced Wednesday that he will go to Moscow May 29 to June 2 for his fourth summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Reagan made the announcement to reporters as he was meeting in the White House with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, immediately urged that the upcoming summit achieve "significant progress" to alleviate the plight of Soviet Jews. He said no meaningful progress occurred during the summit in Washington last December.

"We expect that the issue of Soviet Jewry will be on the agenda of the Moscow summit," Abram said. Saying the "plight of Soviet Jews is high on the list of human rights abuses in the USSR," Abram called on the Soviet Union to fulfill a promise, made in an October 1987 statement prior to the Washington summit, that "significant headway" would be made on the issue of human rights.

"We regret that significant progress was not forthcoming prior to, and following, the Washington summit," he said.

"If the deliberations in Moscow are to be considered fruitful, and if we are to be able to believe Soviet promises on the whole range of issues, the Moscow meeting must result in the adoption by the Soviet Union of a program that will lead to sustained, systematic and substantial Jewish emigration."

Jewish emigration totaled 1,452 during the first two months of 1988.

DIASPORA LEADERS TAP MEIR SHITRIT FOR WZO-JEWISH AGENCY TREASURER

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, March 23 (JTA) -- Diaspora leaders representing half of the 74 members of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors have approved Knesset member Meir Shitrit, of Likud's Herut wing, to be the next treasurer of the Jewish Agency.

The move virtually assures the former Yavne mayor's election to the post. His candidacy is contingent on the approval of the Herut Central Committee in Israel, which is expected.

In a telephone interview, Shitrit said he viewed the treasurer's post as a personal "mission."

"It is a historic moment now, and I want to be part of this change," said Shitrit. He was referring to the December elections of Mendel Kaplan as chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors and Simcha Dinitz as chairman of the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency Executive.

Shitrit is in New York for interviews with the diaspora leaders, sometimes referred to as fund-raisers, who exercised their "advise and consent" role in filling the second most powerful position in the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency Executive.

The diaspora leaders already had rejected

three other Likud candidates for the position, since the World Zionist Congress convened in December. Under a power-sharing agreement, the offices of chairman and treasurer are divided between Labor and Likud. Dinitz is a member of the Labor Party.

Shitrit cannot be formally elected to the treasurer's post until the Board of Governors meets again, during the Jewish Agency Assembly that convenes June 26 in Israel. If approved by both the diaspora leaders and Herut, his election would then be a formality, as he would run unopposed.

Shitrit, born in Morocco, became mayor of the mostly Sephardic development town of Yavne in 1973, when he was only 24 years old. During the 1981 elections, he was one of six people under the age of 40 placed high on Herut's slate of candidates.

Unlike many of his Herut counterparts, however, Shitrit maintains moderate views concerning the building of settlements in the West Bank, preferring that the money for those settlements be diverted to address social problems in the development towns.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEPLORES ORDER TO CLOSE PLO'S U.N. MISSION

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 23 (JTA) -- The General Assembly voted 148 to 2 Wednesday for a resolution deploring the U.S. order to close the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission to the United Nations.

Only the United States and Israel voted against the resolution. There were no abstentions.

The vote comes a day after U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani filed a complaint in federal district court in Manhattan against the PLO's refusal to comply with a U.S. Justice Department order to close and vacate its observer mission office by March 21.

The PLO representative, Zehdi Terzi, was served with a summons Tuesday giving the PLO 20 days to appear in court to answer the complaint. Terzi said Wednesday that the PLO "will not disregard the summons."

The resolution was the second this month condemning the United States action against the PLO observer mission. It deplored what it said was the U.S. failure "to comply with its obligations under the Headquarters Agreement," which established in 1947 the legal relationship between the United Nations and the United States, the host country.

The resolution also called on the U.N. secretary general to take adequate legal action to prevent closure of the PLO mission. It would require him to invoke the arbitration machinery provided for under the Headquarters Agreement to resolve disputes with the host country.

The United Nations announced it has retained Keith Hight, president of the American Society of International Lawyers, to work on a possible U.N. response to the suit against the PLO. The PLO reportedly will be represented by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark in its legal battle with the Justice Department.

The Justice Department suit against the PLO

cites the U.S. Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987.

U.S. Ambassador Herbert Okun explained to the General Assembly before the vote Wednesday that the American legal system obliged the attorney general to move to close the PLO mission. But he added that it provides the PLO every opportunity to raise relevant legal defenses before final action is taken.

Until the courts determine whether the law requires closure of the PLO observer mission, Okun said, the United States contends it is premature to consider arbitration.

He said the United States will take no further steps to close the PLO office until the court decides on the attorney general's right to order closure under the act.

Israeli Ambassador Johanan Bein told the General Assembly before the vote that "the real question before the General Assembly is the integrity of this organization."

Calling the PLO "the principal terrorist organization of our time," Bein claimed it could not invoke the U.N. Charter for protection because its "own avowed principles contradict that very charter."

Terzi of the PLO denounced the American move. He charged the United States wants to create "more Palestinian refugees. They want to throw us into the street," he said.

The International Court of Justice in The Hague is expected to meet April 11 to consider the closure order. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly on March 2 requested an advisory opinion from the World Court.

Diplomats here pointed out that the opinion would not be binding.

The General Assembly is expected to discuss the observer mission issue one more time before April 11, which also is the deadline for the PLO to appear in federal district court here.

CABINET DELAYS VOTE ON PEACE PLAN, BUT SHAMIR IS NOT REJOICING YET

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir told the Inner Cabinet Wednesday to withhold any decision on the American peace plan until other parties, including the Soviet Union, indicate their views to Washington.

The premier briefed the Inner Cabinet -- consisting of five Labor Party and five Likud ministers -- on his talks with Reagan administration officials in Washington last week. He stressed the strong reservations he expressed to the Americans over Secretary of State George Shultz's proposals, which include an international conference.

The discussion ended inconclusively. According to reports leaked from the meeting, the Labor ministers, led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, did not insist on voting on the Shultz initiative.

A vote almost certainly would have been split 5-5 along party lines, and under Cabinet rules, a tie amounts to a rejection.

Labor apparently has not decided what tactics to employ in face of Shamir's clear intention to put off an Israeli decision in the hope that the Arab parties or the Soviet Union will reject the American plan first. In that event, any decision by Israel would be moot.

Shamir addressed his Likud ministerial and Knesset colleagues earlier in the day. He warned it was too early to rejoice over the apparent setbacks to the American plan. "We are in the

midst of a battle in the administered territories and the struggle against the Shultz initiative," he told his Likud cohorts.

He claimed the initiative, if ever carried through, would cut Israel to "dwarf size."

TOUGHER IDF MEASURES ARE SAPPING PALESTINIAN RESOLVE, RABIN CLAIMS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin claimed Wednesday that tougher countermeasures by the Israel Defense Force and punitive sanctions have sapped the will of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to continue their uprising, now in its fourth month.

He said that while the hard-core nationalist leadership has not been deterred, there is "the beginning of fatigue" among the general population, which supported the uprising but is now succumbing to the "intensity of the threat" posed by the IDF's countermeasures.

One of the most severe measures is the widespread arrests of Palestinian activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Rabin reported this week that about 3,000 are now in military detention centers, among them organizers of disturbances on the local level.

The authorities also have expanded their use of administrative detentions and have simplified the procedure. Administrative detentions can now be ordered by a senior IDF officer without prior approval of a military court. The change allows the authorities to imprison suspects for up to six months without specific charges or trial.

Israel also is resorting to economic punishment. Arab money-changers who often funnel Palestine Liberation Organization support funds to the West Bank have been prohibited from crossing the Jordan River bridges.

Arab shopkeepers are being pressured into disobeying orders from nationalist leaders about when to open their shops and when to keep them closed. If they comply, the IDF shuts the shops altogether.

Meanwhile, the level of disturbances in the territories was relatively low Wednesday. But four Palestinian youths reportedly were wounded by IDF gunfire during a violent demonstration in Tarkumiya village, in the Judea district of the West Bank.

NEIGHBORS OF STABBED JERUSALEM BOY WARN ARABS TO KEEP OUT

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) -- Neighbors of a 15-year-old Jewish youth here who was stabbed Tuesday by an Arab have vowed to permit no Arab to enter their Orthodox Jewish neighborhood except on legitimate business.

The victim was reported Wednesday to be "improving" at Bikur Holim Hospital, where he underwent surgery. He was stabbed twice in the stomach in the shop where he worked, but managed to grab the knife and wound his assailant. A 24-year-old Arab suspect was later arrested at a nearby gasoline station.

The incident, coming at a time of continuing unrest in the administered territories, shocked and enraged residents of the Beit Yisrael quarter, an old and usually quiet neighborhood.

Neighbors declared that "from now on, no Arab without business will be allowed in the neighborhood. We will throw them out."

**ISRAEL DENIES THREAT TO MISSILES,
BUT U.S. COMPLAINS ANYWAY**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 23 (JTA) -- The report of a threat by a top aide to Premier Yitzhak Shamir of a possible Israeli pre-emptive strike to destroy Chinese-made intermediate range missiles sold to Saudi Arabia is seen as ruffling Israel's relations with the United States.

Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, denied he had made such a threat, and Premier Yitzhak Shamir lost no time in affirming that denial when he returned to Israel from the United States Tuesday.

The Israeli media reported Wednesday that the United States has complained about Ben-Aharon's reported remark, pointing out that it hampered Washington's efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman confirmed Wednesday, "We expressed our concern about those kinds of statements (to the Israeli government). We don't believe that they are helpful."

The sale of the 2,000-mile-range missiles to the Saudis was publicly disclosed in the United States last week. Israeli reporters insist that Ben-Aharon said in a taped interview with Voice of Israel Radio in Washington last Friday that "Israel has acquired a reputation of not waiting until a potential danger becomes actual."

This was a clear reference to Israel's 1981 air strike that destroyed an Iraqi nuclear facility in which, according to the Israelis, an atomic bomb was being manufactured.

Israeli military analysts have pointed out that while the Saudi purchase is surely intended for defense and deterrence against Iran, it could have serious repercussions on the Arab-Israeli balance of power, especially after the Iran-Iraq war ends.

The analysts noted also that the Chinese-made missiles, the CSS-2, also known as Dong Feng-3, are designed to carry nuclear warheads. The Chinese government insists it has not equipped the missiles it sold to Saudi Arabia with nuclear capability and that it believes the Saudis will keep their promise to use the missiles only in defense.

The United States raised no objections to the missile sale.

Experts at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies have noted that the CSS-2 could create havoc if armed with nuclear warheads.

Little Danger Otherwise

But with conventional warheads they pose little danger. According to the experts, the CSS-2s are obsolete and often miss their targets by as much as two miles. Israeli jet bombers can deliver far greater payloads with pinpoint accuracy.

Nevertheless, the CSS-2s are the first intermediate-range missiles to be introduced in the Middle East, Haaretz military correspondent Zeev Schiff wrote Monday, and can be viewed as a step toward building up an intermediate-range arsenal.

Clearly they give the Saudis the potential to make war on Israel and hit population centers. But Schiff thought the Israelis should pay more attention to Iraq's emerging long-range missile capability, an outgrowth of its eight-year war with Iran. The Iraqi missiles can be equipped with chemical weapons.

**E.C. FOREIGN MINISTERS TO ASK
APPROVAL OF REJECTED ISRAEL ACCORDS**

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, March 23 (JTA) -- The foreign ministers of the 12 European Community member states decided Tuesday to ask the Parliament of Europe to approve three economic agreements with Israel that the Parliament refused to ratify March 9.

Diplomatic sources reported here Wednesday that the chairman of the E.C. Council of Ministers, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, will ask the president of the European Parliament, Lord Plumb of Britain, that the assembly re-examine the matter and approve the protocols at an appropriate time.

The Strasbourg-based Parliament, the E.C.'s legislative body, traditionally has been strongly pro-Israel. But it expressed its disapproval of Israel's handling of Palestinian unrest in the administered territories when it fell short of the 260 votes needed to ratify each accord.

A day later, the Parliament voted overwhelmingly for a resolution condemning Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. The deputies also expressed displeasure over Israel's reluctance to abide by an agreement allowing Palestinians in the territories to export their agricultural products directly to the Common Market.

But the E.C. foreign ministers are disturbed that purely economic agreements prevailed in a political context, the diplomatic sources said.

The accords the E.C. signed with Israel last year, after two years of negotiations, simply adapt Israel's trade relations with the community to Spain and Portugal, which were admitted to the E.C. in 1986. They also provide financial aid for industrial projects in Israel.

According to the sources, Genscher is not expected to ask the Parliament to reverse itself before the scheduled meeting in May of the E.C.-Israel Cooperation Council. The council is the ministerial body that oversees the trade and cooperation accords between Israel and E.C. member states.

In the interim, the E.C. foreign ministers will press Israel on the issue of Palestinian exports. If that is ironed out, the main stumbling block to ratification of the accords will have been removed, diplomatic sources said.

ISRAELI PLANES BOMB PLO SUPPLIES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 23 (JTA) -- Israel Air Force jets attacked terrorist targets north of Sidon in southern Lebanon Wednesday and returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman announced.

He said the pilots reported the targets were destroyed. The raid was the third by the Israel Air Force on Lebanon this month.

Sources in Lebanon said six aircraft carried out the raid. They said the targets were storage buildings for dissident factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization and that a vehicle from which anti-aircraft fire was aimed at the attackers was destroyed.

According to reports from Beirut, the planes came in three waves, bombing bases occupied by Palestinian and pro-Iranian terrorists. The explosions of ammunition stored in the target buildings hampered efforts by Red Cross teams to rescue victims, the Beirut reports said.

DEMONSTRATORS SAY POLICE CONFORM TO RULING ALLOWING EMBASSY PROTESTS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 23 (JTA) -- Two Soviet Jewry activist organizations demonstrated in front of the Soviet Embassy here Wednesday and gave local police passing marks.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry had gathered to "test the waters" of the Supreme Court's decision Tuesday limiting enforcement of a law banning demonstrations within 500 feet of a foreign embassy.

The 8-0 decision by the court would still allow the police to break up a group of three or more people if they disrupted the activities of the embassy or threatened security. But the decision bans police action against "peaceful congregations."

About 30 people participated in the test, including Sens. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) and Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.). They sang "Hatikvah" and other songs in front of the embassy fence, using bullhorns, and even sat on the sidewalk.

They avoided arrest because they did not block the sidewalks or bar people from entering or leaving the embassy, according to Sgt. Gary Nelson of District of Columbia police. He added that police had not decided what level of noise would be tolerated.

The Supreme Court decision Tuesday was in two parts. By a 5 to 3 vote, the court struck down a section of the 50-year-old law that made it illegal to display any sign within 500 feet of an embassy that would bring a foreign government into "public odium" or "disrepute."

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who wrote the decision, said the ban on the signs was a violation of the First Amendment "by prohibiting petitioners from engaging in classically political speech" on public sidewalks.

The ruling was welcomed by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. "We view it as an extension of the rights of citizens in a free society to peacefully demonstrate," the organization said.

The decision in the case, *Boos v. Barry*, upheld a suit filed in 1984 by three members of the Conservative Action Foundation, who complained that they were prevented from demonstrating within 500 feet of the Soviet and Nicaraguan embassies.

O'Connor said she agreed that the government must protect foreign embassies, but she said the 1938 law was too broad.

(JTA Washington correspondent Howard Rosenberg contributed to the report.)

INDIA WON'T SEND TENNIS TEAM TO ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 23 (JTA) -- The Indian government, reversing an earlier decision, announced Wednesday it will not send its Davis Cup tennis team to play in Israel next month, even though it means India will be barred from the Davis Cup matches next year.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi told the Parliament in New Delhi that the Indian team will not be allowed to play the Israelis in the qualifying matches, due to be held in the Ramat Hasharon Tennis Center from April 7 to 9, because of Israel's "atrocities against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza."

The International Tennis Federation informed India that as a result, it will be disqualified from the 1989 Davis Cup matches.

In Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry expressed regret at the Indian decision and denounced mixing politics with sports.

It was announced here March 17 that India had agreed to the matches in Israel after Israel, backed by the Tennis Federation, refused a "neutral venue." The Indian team, headed by Vijay Amritraj, was due in Tel Aviv on April 1.

Israel and India met in last year's Davis Cup matches played in India, but only after the Delhi government succumbed to international pressure and withdrew its threat to deny visas to the Israeli players.

CHURCH GROUP RAPS CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, March 23 (JTA) -- The World Council of Churches criticized on Wednesday the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, which is hosting its second Christian Zionist Congress from April 10 to 14.

The council's statement was written by Gabriel Habib, secretary general of the Middle East Council of Churches.

It expressed concern that the presence at the congress of 7,000 to 10,000 Western Christians to support Israeli policies would be detrimental to the Christian presence in the region.

The congress will be part of Israel's 40th anniversary celebrations.

The embassy was opened in 1980 in response to the withdrawal of all foreign embassies after Israel formally proclaimed Jerusalem as its capital.

One of its founders and spokesmen, Dutch-born Jan Willem van der Hoeven, said the term "Christian Zionism" was adopted to affirm God's covenant with the Jews and their return to Zion. He said Christian support of Israel's right to exist is based on the Bible and will remain constant regardless of circumstances.

SOVIETS TO REVIEW DATA ON WALLEMBERG

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 23 (JTA) -- The Soviet government has agreed to review evidence indicating that Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg is still alive, the Jerusalem Post reported Wednesday.

The Post based its story on information provided by Canadian attorney Irwin Cotler, who recently returned from the Soviet Union.

Wallenberg is credited with saving tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from deportation to Nazi death camps during the last year of World War II, when he was posted to the Swedish legation in Budapest. He was arrested by the Red Army there in 1945 and has not been heard from since.

The Soviets have contended for 40 years that Wallenberg died in prison in 1947. Cotler said he has collected 20 eyewitness accounts from people who claim they saw him alive as late as 1977, and the Soviet authorities have promised to study his brief, the Post quoted the attorney as saying.

Cotler said that officials of the Soviet Interior and Foreign ministries with whom he met had "spoken warmly" of Wallenberg. They praised his role in the "anti-fascist struggle" and referred to his fate as "an immense tragedy."