

**REAGAN PLEDGES TO PUSH MOSCOW
ON SOVIET JEWS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA) -- President Reagan pledged to Jewish leaders from the United States and abroad Thursday that he will again press the issue of human rights, including those of Soviet Jewry, when he meets with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow May 29 to June 2, according to the participants.

"In no way are the Soviets going to get us to retreat from these principles and from the insistence on their adherence to their obligations," Reagan was quoted as saying by Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The 20-minute White House pre-summit meeting was attended by eight leaders of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the World Conference on Soviet Jewry and led by Abram and Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the world group and a former Israeli ambassador to the United States.

Abram, who is also chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, led a delegation from that umbrella group in a meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz Tuesday, at which Shultz reiterated that the issue of Jewish emigration would be high on the summit agenda.

No Change On Jackson-Vanik

Reagan also volunteered to the Jewish leaders that the United States will not change the Jackson-Vanik Amendment until the Soviets allow the large number of Jewish emigrants required by the law, according to Abram.

Abram added the National Conference was pleased that Commerce Secretary C. William Verity also made this clear to Soviet officials when he led a delegation of American businessmen to the Soviet Union last month.

Dinitz, who is also chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, said that the Jewish leaders wanted to thank Reagan for his support of Soviet Jewry and his assurances of continued support.

He said he believes the president is personally committed to the struggle, noting that Reagan told the group that he had worn a bracelet in support of longtime refusenik Yosef Begun since before he was president. Reagan said that when Begun, who recently was allowed to emigrate to Israel, was in the White House last week, he gave him the bracelet.

Abram said that the Soviets committed themselves to be questioned about human rights when they signed the Helsinki Accords, the International Declaration on Human Rights and other international agreements.

Some progress has been made, Abram said, which Jewish leaders welcome. Through the Reagan administration's efforts, he said, the United States has "absolutely institutionalized the use of summits to advance the cause of human rights and Soviet Jewry in a way that can never be ignored by subsequent administrations."

He also welcomed increases in Jewish emigration from the USSR in the last few months,

but stressed the numbers were far less than in the 1970s.

As Abram discussed human rights, a reporter asked him if he thinks "Israel is observing human rights" on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I certainly do," Abram replied. He said Israel is under international obligation to restore order in the territories and if it did not, it would be in violation of international law.

Israel occupies those territories because there is no peace and "the reason there is no peace is because the Arabs have refused to make peace," he stressed.

In addition to Abram and Dinitz, the White House conference was attended by Neil Bradman, chairman of the British National Council for Soviet Jewry; Claude Kelman, chairman of the French Committee for Soviet Jewry; Barbara Stern, chairperson of the Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry; Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International; Jerry Goodman, the NCSJ's executive director; and Malcolm Hoelen, executive director of the Conference of Presidents.

**PERES BRIEFS AJCOMMITTEE MEETING
ON TALKS WITH SOVIETS, EGYPTIANS**
By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA) -- Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said here Wednesday that he challenged both Soviet and Egyptian diplomats in Madrid to be more "generous" in their involvement in the Middle East process.

Peres' remarks came as he addressed the opening session of the American Jewish Committee's 82nd annual meeting, which takes place through Saturday.

Peres met Tuesday with a senior Egyptian official to discuss the Taba border dispute. The Israeli leader was in Madrid to attend the Council of the Socialist International.

Peres said he told the Egyptian that there exists in the Middle East "a real chance not only for the Israelis but for the Arabs themselves."

He said both the Israelis and the Arabs faced a common enemy in what has become a regional dispute between "forces of fundamentalism -- narrow, extreme, regressive -- trying to drag the Arab world back to the Middle Ages," and moderate Arab nations "tired of the bloodshed."

Peres referred to the Iran-Iraq war, saying it demonstrated the enormous costs in both human and financial terms of the ongoing regional conflict. "I told him, 'The Arabs have just one real economic commodity, and that is peace.'"

Regarding the Palestinian uprising in the administered territories, Peres said he explained that "If sovereignty is their wish . . . we shall respect their decision."

"But the Arabs, too, have to understand," he related, "that while they have real national desires, we have our real national security needs. A compromise can be reached if both sides understand fully and respect the needs of the other party."

Peres said he asked the official, "Where is your voice of peace, clear and loud? Where are your compromises?"

During his meeting with Alexander Zotov, a Soviet official also attending the Socialist International meeting, Peres said he criticized the Soviet's self-proclaimed era of "new thinking."

"I asked, 'Why can't you be a little more dramatic? Why can't you be more generous? You will wake up and find out it's a little too late.'"

Must Be 'More Forthcoming'

Peres said that if the Soviets wished to play a larger role in the Middle East, they would need to be "more forthcoming." He did not elaborate.

Responding to an audience member's question about the upcoming superpower summit, Peres said he could see it leading to a renewal of the Mid-east peace process.

He said the success of the planned visit in June by Secretary of State George Shultz will depend on the outcome of the summit. "Can they reach an understanding? In my judgment, yes," he said.

Peres did not discuss the differences between his Labor party and the Likud bloc led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, other than to address North American Jewish concerns about their apparent disunity.

"You are disappointed with the division that exists within Israel. But I ask, when were the Jewish people ever united? When were they ever of one mind, of one opinion?"

After the AJCommittee meeting, Peres proceeded to Chicago. Details of his week-long visit to North America were unavailable at press time, but the foreign minister was expected to make stops in Toronto and Los Angeles before returning to New York next week.

SOVIETS REPORTEDLY NEGOTIATING WITH ISRAEL FOR SPY'S RELEASE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) -- Israeli officials refused to comment Thursday on reports that Israel and the Soviet Union were negotiating for the release of a Jewish emigre serving an 18-year prison sentence in Israel as a Soviet spy.

The report in the West German daily Die Welt said the case of Professor Markus Klinkberg, reportedly sentenced in 1983, was discussed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres with Soviet officials whom he met in Madrid this week while attending a meeting of the Socialist International Council.

According to Die Welt, Klinkberg's release was Moscow's precondition for restoring normal relations with Israel.

The 60-year-old biologist came to Israel as an emigrant from the Soviet Union. He was deputy director general of the Biological Institute in Ness Ziona. According to Die Welt, his frequent trips to Switzerland for "medical reasons" were a cover for contacts with Soviet agents.

Die Welt said Klinkberg's wife lives in Israel. His daughter, Silvia, lives in Paris. She was reportedly active in left-wing circles and initiated the negotiations for her father's release.

The Hebrew weekly Israel Shelanu, published in New York, reported that the Soviets are interested in a deal that would include the release of Shabtai Kalmanovitz, an Israeli businessman held here on suspicion of spying for the Soviet Union.

There have been frequent rumors that the Soviets have tried to plant spies among Jewish immigrants. Kalmanovitz's is the only such case known until now.

SHAMIR SAYS UNREST IS NEARING END, BUT AUTHORITIES BRACE FOR TROUBLE

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir claimed Thursday that the Palestinian uprising is nearing an end, but security forces prepared for a new flare-up of violence this weekend in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"We are on the way to restoring calm and to normal conditions in the area," Shamir told reporters during a heavily guarded visit to the casbah in Hebron. He added that only an end to unrest would bring peace.

Shamir told Jewish settlers who have established an enclave in Hebron that "the entire people of Israel is with you" and urged them to act calmly in cooperation with the Israel Defense Force and the police.

He engaged in a dispute of sorts with an IDF soldier guarding the Patriarchs' Tomb in Hebron, frequently the scene of clashes between Moslem and Jewish worshippers. The soldier said the Jewish settlers were the main cause of the Arab uprising.

Shamir responded that Arab hatred of Israel existed long before the settlers arrived in the territories.

The premier and his entourage passed before curious, sometimes hostile gazes in the narrow streets of the Arab marketplace. One merchant begged Shamir to "stop pressuring the local population."

Shamir replied, "If there is quiet and order, nothing will be done against the population." He added, "The population must behave properly too."

One Arab youth approached Shamir defiantly. "We don't want Israel. We want an Islamic state, we want Hebron, Jerusalem, Haifa and Jaffa," he said.

Meanwhile, the IDF is gearing up for serious trouble on Friday, when Moslems observe the Id El Fidr holiday, which marks the conclusion of the monthlong fast of Ramadan. Authorities are also expecting disturbances on Sunday, the 21st anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and the day Arabs consider to be the anniversary of the founding of Israel.

Thousands of worshippers are expected to attend prayers at the mosques on the Temple Mount Friday, which is the Moslem sabbath. It is usually a volatile occasion and Jerusalem police have been reinforced to deal with disturbances.

Arab Journalists Arrested

Eight East Jerusalem Arabs have been arrested. Four are journalists suspected of anti-Israel activities. Two other East Jerusalem journalists were taken into custody last week, after the authorities closed down the Arabic weekly Al-Awda.

In Washington, the State Department criticized Israel on Thursday for arresting three journalists of the East Jerusalem newspaper Al-Fajr on Wednesday.

"We strongly oppose efforts to restrict the free expression of views through the press," said department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley. "The Palestinian media in East Jerusalem play an important role in expressing the views of Palestinians and in providing information."

(Washington correspondent Howard Rosenberg contributed to this report.)

SOCIALIST RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL MORE MODERATE THAN WAS EXPECTED

By David Kantor

MADRID, May 12 (JTA) -- The Socialist International's Council adopted a resolution on the Middle East conflict Thursday, considerably more moderate and even-handed than the Israeli delegates had expected.

The draft approved at the close of the council's week-long meeting here represented a compromise worked out at a four-hour session of the Middle East Committee Wednesday night.

Original drafts that contained tough language on Israel were rejected, surprisingly, by Socialist delegations that had previously approved them, according to Israel Gat, head of the Israeli Labor Party's delegation to the meeting.

The campaign for tough language against Israel had been led by Bettino Craxi, leader of the Italian Socialist Party and a former prime minister of Italy, and the Spanish vice premier, Alfonso Guerra.

Guerra said Wednesday that the Spanish Socialist Party would accept nothing short of outright condemnation of Israel for its policies in the occupied territories, a call for Israel's total withdrawal from them and recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But Guerra was repudiated inasmuch as the Spanish representatives on the Middle East Committee had already agreed to the moderate language.

Gat said the Israelis were particularly pleased that the resolution called on the PLO to eliminate the destruction of Israel from the list of aims in its national covenant.

The resolution, however, accepts the principle that the Palestinians be able to elect their own representatives; supports an international peace conference; and says Israel should assume its responsibilities as an occupying power.

AUTHORITIES IDENTIFY ARAB SUSPECT IN CAR-BOMBING NEAR ISRAELI EMBASSY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 12 (JTA) -- A man detained in connection with a car bomb attack Wednesday on the Israel Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus, was identified by the Cypriot authorities as Omar Ahmad Hawillo, 28, a student from Lebanon who has been attending college in Nicosia.

The authorities said Hawillo arrived in Cyprus on March 21. He was arrested while fleeing the scene of the attack. He dropped a bag containing a remote-control device that apparently was to detonate the bomb.

The explosion, which killed three people and injured 20, occurred on a bridge about 100 yards from the embassy. Two of the dead were passers-by and the third was the driver of the explosives-laden vehicle, a four-wheel-drive Mitsubishi Pajero.

His charred remains were found about 400 yards from the site of the blast, which left a large crater in the roadway. The driver was not identified.

The Cypriot authorities said immediately after the attack that the Israeli Embassy was clearly the target. No Israelis were hurt.

The Israeli ambassador to Cyprus, Aharon Lopez, said the embassy had received no threats or advance warning. He recalled previous attacks on the embassy in the 1970s and in 1983.

KISSINGER BLASTS PEACE CONFERENCE, BUT SAYS STATUS QUO WON'T LAST

By Elli Wohlgeleuter

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA) -- Taking a left-handed swipe at the Reagan administration's Middle East peace efforts, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said Tuesday that an international peace conference "is the most dangerous forum for Israel" and that the United States can only wind up "being caught between all parties."

At the same time, Kissinger chastised Israel for not presenting a unified point of view on its options for peace.

"One cannot ask for American support if Israeli political leaders present to Americans a smorgasbord of incompatible options and fight their political battle on American soil by dividing up different groups of the Jewish community, and the non-Jewish community, in support of totally conflicting points of view," he said.

Though not mentioning Secretary of State George Shultz's plan by name, Kissinger said that involving the Soviet Union in an international conference runs counter to American interests.

"The permanent objective of the Soviet Union in the Middle East, and the Russian empire before it, has always been diametrically opposed to those of the Western democracies; and even if you believe that (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev is a reformer, what he's trying to reform is the Soviet economy."

An international conference, he said, would not be just a one-time gathering. "The idea that a conference can be assembled, which then sets off Israel and the Arabs for direct talks after which the conference is never heard from again, is, in my view, totally naive."

Such a conference, Kissinger said, "is the most dangerous forum for Israel; it is the most dangerous forum for the United States; and it can only wind up with the United States being caught between all parties and Israel being pressured in a direction that it cannot respect."

Outlines Arab Positions

Speaking at a \$1,000-a-plate American Jewish Committee dinner, Kissinger outlined the varying Arab positions on negotiations:

The more moderate view, which calls for Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 borders; the radical posture, which does not define borders and calls for the application of all United Nations resolutions, "which in effect means the 1947 borders"; and the stance of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which "has never brought itself to accept any borders with Israel."

European countries, Kissinger said, agree that there should be a solution based on the 1967 borders and with the Old City of Jerusalem, and "that is also the formal position of the Soviet Union."

That solution, however, would create a corridor of nine miles between Haifa and Tel Aviv, and 3 miles between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, "and I have known nobody who believes this solution is compatible with the security or survival of Israel," the statesman said.

Whatever the solution, he said, "I do not believe that the status quo can be maintained indefinitely."

"The real decision that has to be made is for Israel to get clear in its own mind what its absolute security requirements are," he said. "In my view, it cannot be the 1967 frontiers."

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WOMAN WINS RIGHT TO SIT ON COUNCIL; ISRAEL'S ORTHODOX ARE IN TURMOIL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA) -- Israel's Orthodox religious establishment is in turmoil over a Supreme Court ruling Thursday that a woman may sit on a local religious council.

The case involves Lea Shakdiel, who was elected last year to the religious council in the Negev town of Yeroham but was not seated because of objections by Orthodox members.

Israel's two chief rabbis, Avraham Shapira (Ashkenazi) and Mordechai Eliahu (Sephardi), issued a joint statement right after the high court's decision, warning that scholars and rabbis might refuse to sit on religious councils all over the country if women were allowed to do so.

The chief rabbis observed that it was "customary for reasons of modesty, that men and women not sit together on religious bodies."

Each city and township in Israel has its religious council, composed of nominees of the local authorities. Their function is to maintain local religious facilities, but the service they perform is administrative, not theological. Until now they have been a male, mainly Orthodox, preserve.

The Supreme Court ordered the mayor of Yeroham, Amir Peretz, to endorse Shakdiel's nomination within 30 days. The head of the council, Moshe Peretz -- not related to the mayor -- said he would rather resign than sit with Shakdiel and claimed the other council members felt the same.

The latest confrontation between the religious establishment and the high court, a secular institution, has its irony. Shakdiel, a school teacher who brought the test case to court, is an observant Jew. Justice Menahem Elon, who wrote the decision, is an Orthodox Jew and Talmudic scholar.

The judges expressed "regret" that Mrs. Shakdiel's problem was not resolved by the religious authorities. In the opinion of certain "wise and good" halachic authorities, a woman is in fact halachically permitted to serve on a religious council together with men, the court said.

Shakdiel thanked the court and Mayor Peretz, who she said stood by her. She said the decision was a victory for religious Zionism and for some rabbis who came out in favor of her election. It was also a triumph for women in Israel, she said.

ITALY FACING WORST ANTI-SEMITISM IN 50 YEARS, CHIEF RABBI CHARGES

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, May 19 (JTA) -- Italian Jewry is facing the worst wave of anti-Semitism since the fascist regime a half century ago, according to Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff of Rome.

Toaff substantiated that charge by displaying bundles of hate mail and scores of photographs of anti-Semitic graffiti at a news conference in the Great Synagogue here Wednesday.

He was accompanied by Giacomo Saban, president of Rome's Jewish community, who also related numerous incidents involving anti-Semitic

behavior. They said they believed the phenomenon was directly related to hostility toward Israel for the harsh measures it has used to suppress the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Much of the hate mail they displayed attested to that fact. Toaff warned that Italy is facing anti-Semitism similar to that which engulfed it when Benito Mussolini, emulating Hitler, promulgated racial laws aimed against Jews.

The Rome chief rabbi created a stir in a newspaper interview earlier this month, where he branded as anti-Semitic certain elements of the Roman Catholic press and the Vatican.

He reiterated those charges at the news conference, but broadened his criticism to include the mainstream Italian press.

"We are particularly worried by articles that appear in authoritative publications, even in the Catholic framework, which put forward attitudes hostile to Judaism, both in the social and religious spheres," and which, he said, "may be particularly influential" on the mass readership.

Accosted In The Streets

Toaff related incidents in which Jews were accosted in the streets of Rome. He said a student at the university was forced to remove a Star of David from a chain around his neck.

An elderly survivor of the Auschwitz death camp was asked by a doctor who saw the concentration camp tattoo on his arm, "How many Palestinians have you killed today in your concentration camps?"

In another episode, a Rome Jew was mailed a partly burned copy of the local Jewish magazine, Shalom, with a note reading "Mr. Jew, would you kindly free Palestine if you do not want to end up like this newspaper. A thousand thanks." The note was signed "Not anti-Semites, but friends of Palestine."

The chief rabbi responded to questions about Jewish attitudes toward Israeli policies. "Every Jew is always in sympathy with the state of Israel, with which he shares its fate, and which represents for him a principle of continuity from the religious and moral points of view, and also from the point of view of security," Toaff said.

"As for the Israeli government, it's not I who names it. I don't have to like it. I support the state and the people it represents."

Some Italian journalists have contested the anti-Semitic examples Toaff offered in the news media. "Articles sharply criticizing Israel's tough policy against Palestinian demonstrators include affirmations that you may either reject or agree with, but which refer to the Israeli government, not the Jews of Rome," Ezio Pasero wrote in the daily *Il Messaggero*.

But Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, who backs both Israel's right to exist and Palestinian demands for a homeland, seems to share Rabbi Toaff's anxiety.

In his weekly column for the magazine *Europeo*, Andreotti wrote that he was watching with great concern the controversy developing over a feared revival of anti-Jewish feeling, which supposedly exists in Catholic circles, without the approval but also without explicit condemnation by the church.