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## JORDAN ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF WEST BANK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA) -- Jordan, bowing to pressure by the Palestine Liberation Organization, announced in Amman Thursday that it has canceled its five-year plan for development in the Israeli-administered territories.

The statement said the decision was taken at the request of PLO chief Yasir Arafat, to prove that Jordan has no designs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The move was seen in Israel as an acknowledgement by Jordan that it has lost most of its power bases in the territories since the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation began last December.

Nevertheless, Israeli officials responsible for administering the territories played down the significance of the Jordanian move.

The officials pointed out that Jordan had invested no more than \$50 million in the territories since November 1986, almost all of it before the uprising.

The five-year plan was announced with much fanfare in November 1986. Jordan said it would invest some \$1.3 billion in the territories over a period of five years.

The plan was then seen as an attempt by Amman to regain its influence at the expense of the PLO. Jordan occupied the West Bank from 1948 until ousted by Israel in 1967. The Gaza Strip was occupied by Egypt over the same period.

The five-year plan depended, among other things, on funds channeled through Jordan from oil rich Arab countries. But the money was slow in coming.

The plan's architect, Jordanian Premier Zaid al-Rifai, presided at Thursday's Cabinet meeting in Amman, which abandoned the plan.

### Washing His Hands

The latest development gave some credibility to rumors that King Hussein of Jordan was about to wash his hands of the Israeli-administered territories.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres dismissed those reports earlier this week.

Noting that most Palestinians in the West Bank are Jordanian citizens and carry Jordanian passports, Peres rejected the notion that Hussein would abandon them.

Peres and his Labor Party have a stake in the so-called Jordanian option. They envision direct negotiations with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that is aimed at a peace treaty with Amman and a political settlement of the Palestinian problem.

A well-known pro-Jordanian Palestinian shares Peres' view of Hussein's ultimate intentions.

According to Rashad a-Shawa, former mayor of Gaza, the Jordanian announcement should be seen as a signal to the PLO that Jordan is not competing with it for influence in the territories.

"I think the king is a real believer in Arab brotherhood," a-Shawa said. "And I don't think he would diminish any aid to the occupied ter-

ritories."

He pointed out that only a few days ago, Jordan paid \$1 million to teachers and government officials in the territories.

The former Gaza mayor stressed that he is still convinced that no peaceful settlement can be reached "without the full cooperation of Jordan."

## ISRAELI DELEGATION LEAVES AMSTERDAM ON HISTORY-MAKING TRIP TO MOSCOW

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, July 28 (JTA) -- A five-member Israeli consular delegation left here Thursday for Moscow, to become the first Israeli officials to be stationed in the USSR since the Soviet Union broke diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967.

The group, headed by Meron Gordon, a Soviet emigre, picked up their Soviet entry visas at the Dutch Foreign Ministry Wednesday, after arriving at The Hague on Tuesday.

The consular delegation had announced that it would begin its stay in the Soviet Union by meeting Soviet Jews at a Moscow synagogue Friday night.

At the Foreign Ministry, the Israelis had what were described as technical talks with Dutch officials. The Netherlands has been looking after Israeli interests in the Soviet Union for the past 21 years.

A ministry spokesman refused to say whether the issue of Soviet Jewish immigrants was discussed.

The Israeli Cabinet had decided on June 19 that Jews leaving the Soviet Union on the strength of Israeli visas must fly directly to Israel via Bucharest, Romania, where they will pick up their visas at the Israeli Embassy.

But Israeli visas are still being issued at the Dutch Embassy in Moscow. Most Jewish emigres travel via Vienna, where the great majority -- 90 percent in recent months -- opt to settle in countries other than Israel, mainly the United States.

Implementation of the new Israeli visa policy will require the cooperation of the Romanian and Soviet authorities and the Dutch Embassy in Moscow.

Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers and Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, who visited Israel a week ago, made it clear to their hosts that Holland supports freedom of choice for Soviet Jewish immigrants with respect to their destination.

There has been some speculation that the Israeli team going to Moscow will eventually issue visas, a routine consular function. The Soviet authorities ruled that out, and it is not certain whether the visas issued the Israelis will be renewed when they expire.

But Israel has several times renewed the visas of a Soviet consular delegation that has been in Israel since June 1987. The Israeli team going to Moscow is in reciprocation.

In Moscow, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the visit of the Israeli delegation is unrelated to the question of diplomatic links between the two countries, according to published reports there.

## PERES SUPPORTS U.S. OFFICIAL MEETING WITH PALESTINIANS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres expressed his support Thursday for plans by a U.S. State Department official to meet with prominent Palestinians in the administered territories when he visits Israel shortly.

He told an Israel television interviewer he had no objections "because we, too, meet with them."

Peres was referring to the upcoming visit of Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

Asked if he would approve meetings with supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Peres said Israel distinguished between members of the PLO, which it considers a terrorist organization, and people who hold certain views.

"We do not censor views, we only censor the pockets -- let them come without stones, without knives and without petrol bombs," Peres said, referring to the kind of weapons used in the Palestinian uprising.

The foreign minister, speaking on the English newscast of Voice of Israel Radio, said Murphy's talks with Palestinians would not constitute an erosion of the American position.

Such meetings have taken place in the past, he noted.

Peres added that he was not convinced there would be no negotiations with the PLO, "just talks."

Yossi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, agreed with Peres that there was nothing new about American administration people talking to Palestinians.

He recalled that Secretary of State George Shultz met in Washington with two Palestinian academicians who are members of the Palestine National Council.

Israel considers the council, a quasi-legislative body, to be part and parcel of the PLO. When it protested the meeting, the Americans pointed out that the two Palestinians are U.S. citizens.

The United States has promised Israel that it would not negotiate or have any contacts with the PLO until the PLO renounces terrorism and accepts U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which explicitly recognize Israel.

The PLO, desperately trying to achieve legitimacy, is seeking talks with American officials without conforming to the conditions, Ben-Aharon said.

## TEHIYA PARTY ADDS THREE DELEGATES TO STATE'S NOVEMBER BALLOT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA) -- The right-wing Tehiya party moved further to the right by assigning presumably safe seats on its Knesset election list to three uncompromising hard-liners in balloting Wednesday.

Elyakim Haetzni, Benny Katzover and Avi Farhan were given the fifth, sixth, and seventh spots respectively.

Tehiya, which holds five seats in the present Knesset, expects to win at least two more seats in the Nov. 1 elections. Opinion polls predict an especially strong showing among younger

voters, both soldiers and civilians.

The party stands to benefit if the courts bar Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach party from running in the elections, which is now considered likely.

The first four Tehiya slots were filled by the party's founding leaders in an earlier ballot. They are Yuval Ne'eman, Geula Cohen, Gershon Shafat and Rabbi Eliezer Waldman.

All are outspoken ultranationalists, but the new candidates are, if anything, more militant.

Haetzni, a lawyer, has waged legal battles against Palestinian nationalists appealing arrests or deportations to the high court and is a bitter foe of the news media.

He lives in Kiryat Arba, the religious township built adjacent to the Arab town of Hebron in the West Bank.

His most recent success was the deportation of Jerusalem-born Mubarak Awad, an American citizen who advocates non-violent civil disobedience to further the Palestinian cause.

Haetzni had led a public campaign against him for three years.

Katzover, a leader of the Gush Emunim, heads the organization of Jewish settlers in the Samaria region of the West Bank.

Farhan endeared himself to Greater Israel advocates by leading violent resistance to Israel's withdrawal from Sinai in 1982 under the terms of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

## 'TIME TO LET GOD IN CLASSROOM' REAGAN TELLS STUDENT GROUP

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 28 (JTA) -- President Reagan maintained Thursday that although he has not been able to get Congress to adopt a constitutional amendment allowing voluntary prayer in the public schools, he believes school prayer will again become a reality.

"I'm convinced that one day such a measure will be passed," Reagan told some 8,000 cheering delegates at a student congress on evangelism.

The president noted that the Constitutional Convention opened its sessions with a prayer, as has the U.S. Congress since its inception. "Isn't it time we let God back in the classrooms?" he asked.

Reagan, who was consistently applauded by the young evangelicals, attacked those who "misread the Constitution" by opposing "public symbols" of religion or mentioning God in the schools. He did not elaborate on what symbols he meant.

The president noted that his administration has had success with the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court upholding the 1984 Equal Access Law, which requires that prayer groups be allowed to use the schools on the same basis as other extracurricular activities.

"If a math group or a chess group can meet after school, then so can a prayer group," he said.

Reagan said that the administration had also won a victory in the recent Supreme Court decision upholding a 1981 law that provides funds to private groups -- including those with religious ties -- to promote sexual abstinence among teenagers.

Vice President George Bush has supported the administration on school prayer and other social issues, including opposition to abortion, an issue that Reagan also stressed to his audience.

# ISRAELI DOCTORS STAGE 24-HOUR WARNING STRIKE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA) -- A 24-hour "warning" strike by 10,000 doctors all but shut down most of Israel's hospitals Thursday.

The Israel Medical Association called the walkout to protest low salaries at government and Histadrut hospitals. It accused management of failing to complete wage negotiations for 1987.

But Treasury officials refused to attend scheduled talks with medical association representatives Thursday on grounds that the government does not negotiate with strikers.

Most Israelis depend on the state-run hospitals or those affiliated with Histadrut's health care agency, Kupat Holim. Service at those hospitals was reduced to a bare minimum Thursday.

Outpatient clinics and treatment centers were closed, wards were manned by skeleton staffs and surgery was performed only in life-or-death situations.

Jerusalem was the least affected center in Israel because most of the country's few private hospitals are located there.

The majority of physicians in those hospitals are observant Jews who consider caring for the sick a religious duty, but even the Orthodox members of the medical association kept outpatient work and surgery to a minimum.

## EXPERTS IN HOLLAND SAY ANNE FRANK LETTER AUTHENTIC

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, July 28 (JTA) -- Questions raised about the authenticity of a letter written in English by Anne Frank to a pen pal in the United States seemed to have been laid to rest Thursday, when local experts declared it genuine.

The letter is one of two written in April 1940 by Anne, then age 11 and her sister Margot, 14, to Juanita and Betty Ann Wagner of Danville, Iowa. They are dated April 27 and 29, a month before the Nazi invasion of Holland.

The correspondence will be auctioned in New York on Oct. 25 by Swann Galleries, which has vouched for its authenticity.

Some doubts were raised here because English was not taught at the Montessori school Anne Frank attended at the time. But research showed it was taught at the secondary school where Margot was a pupil.

An English teacher at the school initiated the letter writing, and when Margot wrote to Betty Ann, Anne added her own letter to the younger Juanita. It was translated for her into English, which she copied in her own hand.

According to George Lowry, president of Swann Galleries, the letter is the only known sample of Anne Frank's handwriting in English.

It has been put up for sale by the Wagner sisters. The Anne Frank Foundation here has entered a bid which it considers "reasonable," but was reportedly rejected by the New York auction house.

The eventual price for the correspondence has been estimated from several thousand to tens of thousands of dollars.

Sources here note the renewed interest in the Holocaust in the United States, where two new museums are being built, as the reason for the high price the Frank letters are expected to fetch.

# ARAB COMMITTEE POSTING ANTI-ISRAEL ADS ON WASHINGTON METRO RAIL

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, July 28 (JTA) -- For the next 30 days, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee will be posting two advertisements in Washington's Metro Rail subway system, one of which asks members of Congress to "just say no" to unconditional U.S. aid to Israel.

The Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, which represents 215 synagogues and Jewish organizations, wrote the Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Wednesday, saying it was "anguished by the odious and misleading nature" of the advertisements, while respecting the Anti-Discrimination Committee's First Amendment rights.

A poster entitled "Israel Putting Your Tax Dollars to Work!!" asks if "you know that last year, American taxpayers gave Israel \$1.8 billion in military aid?" as well as \$1.2 billion in economic aid.

"Only Congress can stop this madness," the advertisement concluded.

The council responded by arguing that the aid was "not in form of cash but credits to be spent here," and termed it an "economic stimulus to America."

The other poster, lined with rulers, cites the Soviet Union, South Africa and Israel as constituting "1 Yardstick for Human Rights." Both placards contain identical pictures of terrified Palestinians confronting or being confronted by Israeli soldiers.

The advertisements, which cost \$10,000, are being posted in 213 cars in the subway system, which runs through Washington and into suburban Maryland and Virginia. About 250,000 people ride the subway each day.

The council, while not contesting the comparison to the Soviet Union, said it considered equating Israel's treatment of Palestinians to South Africa's treatment of blacks "deliberate inflammatory skewing of the facts."

## Call For Negotiations

"Israel has not sought to subjugate Palestinians and has called repeatedly for negotiations for peace and accommodation," the letter said.

An ADC subway advertising campaign last December called for the United States to withdraw the diplomatic credentials of Israel's military attache in Washington, Maj. Gen. Amos Yaron, who was implicated in the Sabra-Shatila Lebanese refugee camp massacre in 1982.

The ADC submitted but later withdrew another poster proposal to Metro this spring, which featured a photograph of the U.S. Capitol with the caption: "Capitol Hill: Another Israeli-Occupied Territory."

In defending the two new posters, ADC President Abdeen Jabara charged that "Congress is not reflecting public reaction to the continuing brutal Israeli treatment of Palestinians."

He said that the "great dissonance which exists between American public sentiment and congressional action cannot continue under our democratic system, even as Congress faces the 1988 elections."

He cited a Chicago Tribune poll conducted last April that found 44 percent of U.S. citizens polled favored cuts in U.S. aid to Israel in order to pressure it to address the problems of Palestinians. Only 37 percent opposed such cuts.

**HUNGARIAN JEWRY:  
'HOW I RECOGNIZED I WAS JEWISH'  
(Part 2 Of A Series)  
By Susan Birnbaum**

BUDAPEST, July 28 (JTA) -- The increasingly vibrant Hungarian Jewish community visited by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency earlier this month does not resemble the one visited by JTA only three years ago. Much appears to have dramatically changed for the better in the life of Hungarian Jewry.

In 1985, Hungarian Jews were described as "polarized" between the few religious and the many assimilated, and few Jewish intellectuals had contact with the Jewish community.

Now, formerly alienated Hungarian Jews are engaging in grass-roots cultural and religious study programs.

Three years ago, Ilona Seifert, secretary-general of MIOK -- the National Association of Hungarian Jews -- rejected a request by young people for a Jewish summer camp, alleging that parents needed more time with their children.

On this visit, the JTA saw a thriving camp where over 100 Jewish youth spend 10-day periods in a former adult vacation villa, overflowing the dining hall and filling the dormitories three to a room.

Three years ago, there was no Jewish children's choir, and the adult choir was not presented to the JTA.

This year, the JTA heard both a children's chorus and the accomplished adult Goldmark Choir, sometimes representing two generations.

Three years ago, people interviewed asked not to be identified. This time, nobody made that request.

During this year's visit to Hungary -- enabled through the Emanuel Foundation for Hungarian Culture and sponsored by the Hungarian government through its national tourist board--Jewish individuals repeated their joy that world Jewry had come to visit and help them.

**Jews Stick Together**

Istvan Doman, editor of the Hungarian Jewish newspaper Uj Elet, said, "You know, the anti-Semites always accused us of sticking together. But during the Holocaust we were alone. Now we hope that some help will come from the Jews abroad and it will be true what we were accused of!"

Hungarian Jewry's needs are only partly helped by MIOK through private donations by Hungarian Jews, government matching funds and help from abroad.

Both the Emanuel Foundation and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) say they have helped make a success of the children's camp, which is located in a magnificent setting at Balatonfured on Lake Balaton.

The camp's activities, including daily prayer and study sessions, are run by rabbinical students from the Budapest Rabbinical Seminary. In crowded rooms, talleisim and swimsuits are draped over bunks.

Andor Weiss, executive vice president of the Emanuel Foundation, said over 400 children were able to attend the camp this summer because of a donation it received from Ronald Lauder, former U.S. ambassador to Austria, whose mother Estee was born in Hungary.

The JDC has also largely contributed to the camp's functioning, and is looking for a larger

site, according to Ralph Goldman, JDC honorary executive vice president.

**No Yiddish Spoken Here**

An initial goal is to teach Hebrew. One of the major ways in which the Hungarian Jewish community has cut itself off is in its refusal to speak Yiddish, Hebrew or even English. Those who could converse without interpreters were rare.

One way the language disability is being redressed is in the new Hebrew program and major established at the University of Budapest.

The program is run by Dr. Geza Komoroczy, who is also head of the year-old Center for Jewish Studies at the university -- a joint venture between the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the New York-based Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Komoroczy said the school has dispensed with the usual academic requirements for the class and divided it into three levels, so that no one who wants to learn Hebrew will be dissuaded.

After 20 years of providing grants to scholarly and educational endeavors in Hungary, the Memorial Foundation decided two years ago that it wanted to change its work in Eastern Europe.

"Look, there are new winds blowing," said executive director Jerry Hochbaum. The foundation wanted to provide new learning material for those outside the establishment who wouldn't ordinarily be reached.

The foundation provided money to publish three children's books in Hungarian on Genesis, religion and Jewish history.

The books were all published in July 1987 in Hungary, with government permission. By October, all the books had sold out.

**'I Am A Jew'**

A second printing of 3,000 copies of the history and religion books likewise sold out. But, said Hochbaum, "the biggest best-seller was a sociological paper on 'How I recognized that I am a Jew.'"

The JDC has endowed several Talmudei Torah, which educate about 400 Jewish children. The Anna Frank Gymnasium, a Jewish high school aided by the JDC, has seen its student body increase from nine students in 1983 to 83 registered for September.

The Joint also funds the Rabbinical Seminary in Budapest, the only rabbinical seminary in the Eastern bloc.

On Friday nights, young people -- from homes in which they learned no Jewish tradition -- gather in large numbers in the seminary's chapel to listen to discussions begun by Rabbi Yehuda Schweitzer, the director.

After the service, the young people have refreshments while discussing religion and Jewish culture.

Vying for Hungarian Jews' attention has reached an unprecedented level. Imre Miklos, Hungary's minister of religion, told visiting World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency Executive Chairman Simcha Dinitz in Budapest earlier this month, "Now we are ready to compete with you on who will be able to give more assistance to the Jewish community."

Miklos told Dinitz and Avi Beker, the World Jewish Congress' Israeli representative, that they had "established a bridge between Hungary, the Jewish people and Israel, and now is the time to start walking across it."

(Next: Healing Jews In Hungary)