



FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS ARAFAT SEEKS PERES' RECOGNITION 1988

PARIS, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Roland Dumas revealed in a radio interview that Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat asked him to sound out Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on a possible recognition by Israel of a Palestinian state.

Speaking Tuesday morning on French radio station "Europe 1," Dumas reported on his dialogue with Arafat in Strasbourg last week.

Dumas, the first French Cabinet minister to meet with Arafat on French soil, was to meet Friday with Peres.

Arafat "said to me, half jokingly, 'ask Monsieur Shimon Peres, if I would formally recognize Israel, would he recognize the Palestinian state?'" Dumas said.

He said he pressed Arafat on the point. "If I publicly say that you have recognized Israel de facto, would you deny having said that to me?"

To which the PLO chief reportedly replied, "No, I would not deny that."

Dumas said that he told Arafat that it was important for the peace process that the PLO recognize Israel. Arafat said, "I recognize the State of Israel by accepting (U.N.) Resolution 242."

"But an explicit recognition would be better than an implicit one," Dumas remarked. "It's contained in what I said," asserted Arafat.

Dumas said the PLO leader predicted three possible developments emerging from the upcoming meeting of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's so-called parliament.

They are creation of a provisional Palestinian government; creation of a Palestinian state; or a demand that the Israeli-administered territories be put under the supervision of the United Nations.

"According to what he said to me, Arafat would favor the government in exile solution," Dumas said.

"This government would not be presided over by him. It would be independent of the political charter (of the PLO), it would start negotiations with other parties, including Israel."

Dumas did not say whether France would recognize such a government if it was formed.

MUBARAK SAYS IRAQ MIGHT SEEK PEACE WITH ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Iraq could be the second Arab country to negotiate peace with Israel, according to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, whose country under the late Anwar Sadat was the first.

Mubarak offered that upbeat assessment during a conversation last week with the new Israeli ambassador to Egypt, Professor Shimon Shamir.

While it is not entirely without credibility, Israeli officials are more interested in -- and pleased with -- Mubarak's invitation to Shamir for a private *tete-a-tete*.

The Israeli envoy had just presented his credentials at the presidential palace in Cairo,

one of 11 ambassadors to do so.

But only Shamir and the new ambassador from Iraq were asked to stay for separate, substantive conversations with the president after the ceremonies.

Shamir is no stranger to Cairo. He founded and headed the Israeli Academic Center there and is considered his country's foremost expert on Egypt and Egyptian affairs.

Mubarak's remarks to him, behind closed doors, were reported in Yediot Achronot Thursday by its usually well-informed Arab affairs correspondent, Smadar Perry.

The Israeli newspaper quoted the Egyptian president as telling the ambassador from Jerusalem, "There is an Arab partner."

According to the report, Mubarak numbered Iraq among the moderate Arab states.

Moderate Rhetoric

Statements by Tariq Azziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, and other diplomats in Baghdad, tend to bolster the notion that Iraq is adopting more moderate rhetoric with regard to Israel.

But recently, following Iraq's successes in the war and cease-fire terms that were favorable to Baghdad, Israel has become increasingly apprehensive.

Officials and commentators in Jerusalem speak more than ever of the possibility that Iraq's vast and battle-hardened army might be turned against Israel in a future Arab-Israeli war.

Although it is generally conceded here that the Iraqi army will stay massed on the Iran border for some time to come, Iraq's use of chemical warfare and ballistic missiles is seen by Israel as introducing a new and dangerous elements into the region that could be emulated by Syria and other foes of Israel.

Still, Iraq's closeness to Egypt and its desire to maintain sympathy in the West, despite its proven poison gas outrages, lend credence and interest to Mubarak's reported opinion.

VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN TERRITORIES AS DOZENS DEMONSTRATE IN NABLUS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Violence erupted in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem over Yom Kippur and continued on Thursday.

A Palestinian youth was killed Wednesday in the Gaza Strip, and at least 13 others were wounded in clashes with Israeli troops.

An Arab man suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities was stabbed and seriously wounded in Nablus.

Continuing disturbances were reported Thursday, mainly in the Nablus area. Initial reports said at least three residents, and perhaps as many as 12, were wounded in clashes with the Israel Defense Force and were hospitalized locally.

The clashes followed a report that said dozens of Palestinians marched double-file through Nablus, carrying portraits of Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat and waving Palestinian flags.

Because all activity was suspended in Israel for the Day of Atonement, thousands of Palestinians with jobs in Israel stayed home.

All residents of the administered territories were barred from entering Israel proper as of Tuesday afternoon, several hours before the holiday began.

Meanwhile, the IDF's judge advocate general announced Thursday that manslaughter charges will be brought against four soldiers of the elite Golani Brigade in connection with the death by beating of an Arab resident of the Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

The case involves a recent incident in the camp during which soldiers were stoned by Palestinian youths.

The soldiers broke into homes to make arrests and beat the occupants. The father of one family died later.

The soldiers claimed they acted in self-defense, but the judge advocate general ruled there was sufficient evidence to try them on criminal charges.

In another development, the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, admitted this week that Awad Hamdan, 23, a Palestinian prisoner who died in custody two months ago, suffocated while under interrogation.

The official statement was given to lawyer Felicia Langer, who is representing the victim's family -- but only after the Supreme Court intervened.

Earlier, the Shin Bet refused to reveal the cause of Hamdan's death on grounds that it would disclose the agency's methods of operation.

Langer said she would appeal to the high court again for more details. She wants to know just how Hamdan suffocated and whether he received prompt medical treatment.

ISRAEL'S ECONOMY RECOVERS FROM UPRISING DISRUPTION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Israel's economy as a whole has been able to overcome the disruptions caused by the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But some sectors, heavily dependent on the large Arab market, have suffered severe losses, according to the semi-annual report of the Bank of Israel, released Thursday.

The central bank reported that the economic slowdown of the early months of this year has been reversed.

The economy has adjusted to the situation in which Palestinian day laborers from the territories frequently fail to show up for their jobs, the report said.

The main reasons for the slowdown were shrinking demand and a 40 percent drop in the number hours worked by Arab laborers.

But the economy is now stabilizing and some sectors are expanding.

Nevertheless, because residents of the territories have cut back on their purchases from Israel, consumer industries have reported a 40 percent drop in sales.

Especially hard hit are the medical drug industry which reported a 25 percent decline, and the sale of cigarettes, down an overall 15 percent.

One brand popular with Arabs, called "Time," suffered a 35 percent loss of sales.

The manufacturer of a product called "Cheap-Choc" has called for a counter-boycott of goods manufactured in the territories, Yediot Achronot reported this week.

Israeli Arabs are benefiting from the unrest

in the territories. Before the uprising, Israelis drove regularly to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to shop for bargains.

Now they are going instead to the Arab villages in Israel, which are considered safe and undersell Jewish vendors.

ISRAEL AND CZECH DIPLOMATS RAISE GLASSES IN TOAST

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- An exhibition titled "Marvels of the Ghetto," which opened in the northern Italian town of Ferrara Monday, became the background for an unexpected show of cordiality and good will between Israel and Czechoslovakia.

The opening of the exhibit, devoted to Jewish culture and art, including a segment from Czechoslovakia, was attended by the deputy prime minister of Czechoslovakia, Matei Lucan. He and Israel's ambassador to Italy, Mordechai Drory, joined in a toast, in Hebrew.

Czechoslovakia severed diplomatic ties with Israel following the 1967 Six-Day War and they have not been restored.

Later, the Czech ambassador to Italy, Norbert Zudek, was quoted in the newspaper La Repubblica as saying the will exists in his country to improve relations with Israel.

The exhibit, which was formally opened by President Francesco Cossiga of Italy, is devoted to Jewish art and culture from the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy.

One section features Jewish treasures from Prague, which were rescued from the Nazis. These include 200 objects from synagogues and museums in Czechoslovakia, textiles, engravings, furnishings, silver and paintings.

Much of it was earmarked by Hitler for "a museum of an extinct race," to be established after the Jews were exterminated.

The exhibit will be open in Ferrara until Jan. 15, after which it will tour Europe.

GORBACHEV TO FREE JEWS, SAYS HAMMER

TUCSON, Ariz., Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Mikhail Gorbachev will eventually let every refusenik leave the Soviet Union, according to Armand Hammer, a personal friend of the Soviet leader.

"Even more than that, every Jew who wants to leave the Soviet Union will be allowed to do so. That is what Mr. Gorbachev told me and I believe him," Hammer said in an interview Thursday with Patricia Golan of the Arizona Post, the Jewish weekly published here.

The 90-year-old industrialist, the first American to develop commercial contacts with Soviet Russia in the early 1920s, was in Tucson for a meeting of the President's Cancer Panel, a blue-ribbon group that advises the government on the latest developments in cancer research.

Hammer, who has known every Soviet leader since Lenin, said he has faith in Gorbachev. "I believe him. I think he is a man of his word, and he certainly should be tested on this. We should give him a chance."

He added, "Gorbachev might make conditions so pleasant in Russia, some of those Jews might not want to leave."

Hammer, known in international business circles as the "Russian Connection," helped organize American assistance after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986.

REAGAN TO STRESS HUMAN RIGHTS IN MEETING WITH SHEVARDNADZE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- President Reagan is expected to stress the importance for the Soviet Union to continue making progress on human rights, when he meets with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Friday afternoon.

The White House meeting will conclude two days of talks between Shevardnadze and Secretary of State George Shultz.

Human rights was the first item on the agenda between the two foreign ministers, when the talks began at the State Department Thursday.

"We still believe that more can be done in this area" of human rights, Rozanne Ridgway, assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs, said at a briefing on the meeting earlier this week.

She said this included such matters as increased emigration, the release of political prisoners and religious practices.

After a meeting between Shultz and Jewish leaders last Friday, Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, said that Shultz was expected to discuss with Shevardnadze issues raised by the Jewish leaders.

This included a time limit on how long the possession of "state secrets" could bar someone from emigrating; the elimination of public and official anti-Semitism; and the recognition of Hebrew as an official language.

The group also asked Shultz to press the Soviets to allow the emigration of four former prisoners of conscience: Boris Chernobitsky, Vladimir Kislik, Evgeny Lein and Roald Zelikhonok.

Shultz and Shevardnadze were accompanied at the meetings by a large contingent of advisers, as they discussed the four areas that have become the normal agenda in meetings between the two superpowers -- arms control, human rights, regional issues and bilateral issues.

As has become diplomatic practice, working groups were established on all four topics.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said that Shultz and Shevardnadze are not scheduled to meet in New York next week, when both will be attending the U.N. General Assembly, although he did not rule out such a meeting.

Shevardnadze is also scheduled to meet with Vice President George Bush.

Although Bush has frequently met with foreign leaders visiting Washington, the meeting is being viewed as part of his presidential campaign.

No meeting has been scheduled with Bush's Democratic opponent, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis.

POLIO VIRUS SURFACES NEAR LOD; 150,000 ISRAELIS BEING VACCINATED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Residents of a sprawling slum along the railroad tracks between Lod and Ramla were being given polio vaccinations Thursday, following discovery of the polio virus in sewage from the area.

The Health Ministry was reported to be considering vaccination of the entire population of the Lod-Ramla region, since the water samples, part of a nationwide testing program, proved contaminated.

The mass vaccination of the entire 150,000 residents of the Hadera area was begun Tuesday after an outbreak of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) there was confirmed last week.

The first stage, the injection of Salk serum into pregnant women and infants under a year old, was begun on Yom Kippur eve by teams of doctors, assisted by 120 nurses.

Arab doctors and nurses administered the vaccine in Arab towns and villages during Yom Kippur.

In the second stage, which began Thursday, the orally administered Sabin vaccine was given to 50,000 kindergarten and elementary school children. About 100,000 other residents under the age of 35 will receive the Sabin serum in later stages.

The immunization program is expected to last 10 days and will cost about \$100,000.

The Health Ministry insists there is no epidemic, but rather a number of isolated cases among the 5 percent of the population without natural or acquired immunity to the disease.

So far there are only seven confirmed cases in the country and three suspected cases, ranging from mild to severe.

The confirmed victims include a 3-month-old boy and a 26-year-old resident of Or Akiva, near Hadera. Both were reported in serious but stable condition.

A 23-year-old soldier has been released from a hospital in Acre in good condition after treatment, and is now in an army convalescent home.

A 26-year-old Hadera woman who worked in Or Akiva has been paralyzed in an arm and a leg. Her condition is stable.

An 11-year-old boy from Givat Olga suffered partial paralysis of the legs.

A 10-year-old boy from Kibbutz Ein Shemer, near Hadera, has become ill.

A 9-month-old girl from Kiryat Gat, near Ashkelon, was the only case reported at considerable distance from Hadera.

SHAMIR OFFERS MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR YOM KIPPUR WAR FATALITIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- The soldiers who fell in the Yom Kippur War in 1973 left two legacies: never be caught by a surprise attack as Israel was by Egypt and Syria 15 years ago, and to work toward a real peace.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir offered that testament at a memorial service for the Yom Kippur war dead on Mt. Herzl Thursday.

He said Israel's peace treaty with Egypt, an outcome of the Yom Kippur War, is a reality which has passed the trials of Israel's security needs. He expressed the hope that the civilian aspects of the treaty would improve.

But while Shamir was extolling the treaty, Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, was castigating Egypt for affirming support of the Palestine Liberation Organization when its chief, Yasir Arafat, visited Cairo recently.

Ben-Aharon summoned the Egyptian ambassador, Mohammad Basyouni, to inform him that Israel viewed Arafat's visit "gravely."

He contended that Egyptian policy toward the PLO jeopardizes peace and was counterproductive to relations between Israel and Egypt. Basyouni promised to convey the protest to his government.

NEW YORK SCHOOL CHILDREN GET LESSON IN BIGOTRY

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- A group of New York's public school pupils, reflecting this city's broad ethnic mix, stood on the charred floorboards of a burned-out shul in Brooklyn Thursday morning to learn a lesson about bigotry.

"Bigotry, hate, the words are abstractions. Here you see the pain and ugliness bigotry can cause," the youngsters were told by Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

He spoke in the fire-gutted interior of Orthodox Congregation Rabbinical Institute Sharai Torah in the Midwood section of Brooklyn, the target of arson, desecration and vandalism in the early hours of Saturday, Sept. 17.

His audience was solemn and attentive under the bright lights of television camera crews.

They stood in a rough circle amid the charred debris of scorched woodwork and waterlogged furnishings in what had been a classroom, with a small pulpit for worship in the center. The distinctive mildew stench of fire damage was all pervasive.

More than a dozen of the visitors were teen-agers from three high schools in the district -- Midwood, Edward R. Murrow and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

About twice that number were sixth graders from P.S. 99, a neighborhood elementary school within walking distance of Sharai Torah.

They were brought together with the consent of the New York City Board of Education, and the personal blessings of school Chancellor Richard Green, to view a disaster that sent shock waves through the city.

The unusual trip, barely two weeks into the new school year, was proposed by the ADL.

Great Impact

All of these youngsters were aware of the outrage perpetrated in their borough. Foxman and Carol Lister, ADL's New York regional director who escorted them, believe that seeing the havoc would have a greater impact -- and be remembered longer -- than fleeting images on a TV newscast.

Moreover, the students, all of whom volunteered after their teachers explained the nature of the trip, were of roughly the same age as the suspected perpetrators.

Last Sunday, a 12-year-old and a 15-year-old were arrested and confessed to the arson and destruction.

Because they are juveniles, their identities have been withheld. They were released in custody of their parents pending an appearance in Family Court.

But Dionne Boissiere, an articulate 16-year-old from Midwood High, found it hard to believe that the two could have planned and carried out the destruction.

"Where did it come from? All of that hatred?" the black teen-ager asked, in a conversation with a reporter.

Boissiere, who is president of her junior class, is convinced there was adult instruction.

The sheer ferocity of the crime has led others to suspect as much. The intruders systematically wrecked the sanctuary and study rooms, and spray painted swastikas and anti-Semitic obscenities on the walls.

Their final act of blind hate was the destruction of the congregation's six Torahs. The offenders pulled the Torahs from the Ark, stripped off their vestments, rolled them out on the floor and then set them on fire.

Adam Friedman, a husky junior from Midwood, repeatedly shook his head in disbelief. The 16-year-old said he couldn't imagine "anybody doing this."

The younger onlookers from P.S. 99 exhibited a healthy curiosity. Most of them are Asian -- Chinese, Korean, Indian and Pakistani.

"What will happen to the kids?" one asked referring to the suspects in custody. "How will they be punished?" asked another. "Will they go to jail?" "Will you forgive them?"

The last question came from one of the few white youngsters. Louis Galinsky, acting principal in charge at P.S. 99, identified him to a reporter as David Zaltzman, age 12.

Foxman explained that there are sins against God which only God can forgive, and also sins against fellow men.

He said that yes, the perpetrators would be forgiven eventually, but they must earn their forgiveness. If found guilty, they must be punished, Foxman said.

One Oriental youngster wanted to know, "Where are the people praying now?"

He was told that a nearby congregation, Yeshiva Chaim Berlin, had "adopted" Sharai Torah, whose congregants are now using their facilities.

TWO ISRAELIS SAIL ON YOM KIPPUR, FACE DISCIPLINARY ACTION BACK HOME By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA) -- Two Israeli yachtsman escaped being called home from the Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea, for apparent violation of strict orders not to compete on Yom Kippur.

The contestants, Dan and Ran Torten, who are brothers, sailed their 470-class boat Wednesday, although other members of the Israeli Olympic squad refused to participate in events scheduled on Yom Kippur, even though it meant elimination.

Initial reports said the Tortens would not be allowed to continue in the yachting competition.

However, Israel Radio said Thursday that they would be allowed to finish the games, but would face disciplinary action when they return to Israel.

The brothers admitted they had sailed their boat off the coast at Pusan Wednesday, but insisted it was a practice run and they were not competing in the race.

Initial results of the race placed them ninth, but later they were dropped from the contest for not having finished.

Yitzhak Ofek, president of Israel's Olympic Committee, said the fact they had not finished indicated that from their point of view, they were not in the race.

Four other Israeli competitors, including another yachting team, forfeited their events because of Yom Kippur.

Flyweight boxer Yehuda Ben-Haim lost his bout with a Moroccan opponent by default because he failed to show up.

Gymnast Revital Sharon missed a scheduled morning appearance, but was allowed to compete in the evening.