



PERES CALLS ON PLO TO SPEAK WITH A 'CLEAR VOICE' FOR PEACE
By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in a speech prepared for delivery Wednesday evening before the United Nations General Assembly, reiterated his support for a "non-coercive international setting" to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But while continuing to express his preference for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as a negotiating partner, Peres said that Israel is "prepared to start negotiations without prior conditions with a Jordanian delegation or a Palestinian one."

His address, the text of which was made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Wednesday afternoon, appeared to be a signal to the Palestine Liberation Organization that it drop the murkiness of its latest peace rhetoric in favor of a "clear voice" for peace.

"For how long can a desire for peace be treated as a secret password, as though we are living in clandestine surroundings? Commitment to peace must emerge loud and clear, for skeptics to witness, for the hopeful to respond" to, said Peres.

The foreign minister's address late Wednesday to the 43rd session of the General Assembly was expected to cap three days of intensive diplomacy at the United Nations.

Czechs To Send Delegations

Peres met Tuesday with his counterparts from both Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. During a 90-minute meeting with Bohuslav Choupek of Czechoslovakia, the two countries agreed to exchange consular delegations for the first time since the Czechs severed diplomatic ties in 1967.

The Czechs said they would send two delegations to Israel and would promote economic ties with Israel.

The meeting was the first encounter between the two countries since the Six-Day War, when Czechoslovakia, along with other Eastern European nations except Romania, severed relations with Israel.

Another first occurred Monday, when Peres, President Reagan and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid took part in the first high-level joint meeting among the three countries since the signing of the Camp David accords almost exactly 10 years ago.

Peres referred to that meeting in his address when he said the three countries agreed that the only basis for negotiations are U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The resolutions call for return of Arab lands and guarantee Israel's right to have secure borders.

That said, Peres put the ball squarely in the PLO's court, with both warnings and entreaties to the organization and its chairman, Yasir Arafat.

Peres called PLO talk of declaring a government in exile and its suggestion of a return to the borders specified in the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan "yet another escape to the realm of self-illusion."

"We expect the Arab world -- including the Palestinians -- to do away with the contradiction

of sweet promises and bitter violence," he said. "A choice must be made: to pay the price of peace or be resigned to the costs of war."

The foreign minister held fast to his formula of including the Jordanians in peace negotiations over the future of the administered territories, despite King Hussein's decision to sever ties with Palestinians living there.

Urges Role For China, USSR

Peres also called for a halt to the arms race in the Middle East, especially in the areas of ballistic missiles and chemical and biological warfare.

In addition to addressing the Arab world, Peres urged the entire General Assembly to renounce its "Zionism is racism" resolution of 1975.

He called it "a statement that shows no understanding of Zionism and a dangerous misunderstanding of racism."

The foreign minister had qualified praise for the Soviets for allowing a degree of "cultural autonomy" and increased emigration for Soviet Jews. He called on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to play a diplomatic role in the Mideast beyond arming Arab belligerents.

Peres also called for a role for the People's Republic of China in an international conference. The foreign minister, who met earlier in the day with his Chinese counterpart, Quichen Quian, urged China to normalize relations with Israel.

Peres also met Wednesday with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Ministers Musut Vilmaz of Turkey and Peter Varkonyi of Hungary. After his address, he was to meet with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

U.S. DEPLORES USE OF PLASTIC BULLETS
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- The State Department on Wednesday criticized Israel's recent use of plastic bullets against Palestinian rioters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We believe that measures must be taken to reduce rather than to increase casualties among Palestinian demonstrators," spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said at the department's daily briefing.

As many as six Palestinians have died in riots this week and scores have been wounded. Observers attribute the increase in casualties to the Israel Defense Force's decision to substitute plastic bullets for the rubber bullets previously used to subdue the unrest.

Oakley said the United States is "disturbed by the rising casualties to Palestinians in recent clashes with the Israeli military. We can see no justification for a policy admittedly designed to cause an increase in casualties."

Asked whether the United States is urging Palestinians not to engage in rioting, Oakley said, "We are certainly in touch with Palestinians in the occupied territories and we have urged restraint on all sides."

Across from the United Nations, in Sharan-sky Square, hundreds of Palestinians gathered Wednesday to demonstrate against Peres and Israel's policies. They were joined by dozens of Hasidim from the Neturei Karta sect.



**WITH DEATH OF RASHAD A-SHAWWA,
GAZANS LOSE A MODERATE VOICE**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Rashad a-Shawwa, a controversial Palestinian leader whom the Israeli authorities twice appointed and twice deposed as mayor of Gaza, died Tuesday at his home in Gaza of a heart attack. He was 79.

Thousands of Palestinians came to his home Wednesday to pay condolences to the family. President Chaim Herzog of Israel and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin sent telegrams.

Ezer Weizman, a former defense minister who knew Shawwa personally, expressed regret that his leadership never achieved its potential and suggested it was probably "because he belonged to another era."

For Palestinians, Shawwa's death meant the loss of one of their more moderate leaders. He was a key figure of the pro-Jordanian camp in the administered territories and refused to blindly follow the guidelines of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

While he was fiercely opposed to the Israeli administration of the territories, unlike most other Palestinian leaders he was publicly critical of terrorist organizations. That led to several attempts on his life and sabotage of his property.

Shawwa deeply resented the humiliation of living under military occupation. "We just cannot take it any longer," he would say.

But he cautioned against hasty solutions. He always stressed the need to end the Israeli administration of the territories before a Palestinian state could be established.

'Youths Are Taking Over'

Two years ago he proposed that Egypt take over administration of the Gaza Strip as an interim measure before Palestinian statehood.

He was as surprised as the Israelis by the ferocity and magnitude of the Palestinian uprising, which began in the Gaza Strip last Dec. 9 and spread swiftly to the West Bank.

"The youths are taking over," he said in a recent interview. He called the uprising a "white revolution" in which the young generation "pushed aside" the traditional leadership.

He believed, however, that when the time came for negotiations, the old timers like himself would be summoned to do the job.

Shawwa's life spanned three eras in the modern history of Palestine. He was born in 1909, when the Ottoman Turks ruled the country, to one of the wealthiest Gazan families. He went to school in Jerusalem and graduated from the American University in Cairo with a degree in political science in 1934.

That was the period of the British Mandate. He returned to Gaza to become a civil servant in the British administration and eventually became governor of Haifa.

He was fired in 1937 for anti-British activities.

Twice Ousted From Office

The end of the 1950s, the first decade of the state of Israel, found Shawwa in charge of the Egyptian administrative office for the Gaza region. Israel captured the territory in 1967 and appointed Shawwa mayor of Gaza, its largest city, in 1971.

But he was removed from office a year later for Palestinian nationalist activities. He was

reappointed in 1976 but ousted again in 1982, because he opposed the newly established Israeli civil administration in the territory.

Nevertheless, Shawwa continued to be Gaza's most prominent spokesman. He adopted a moderate pro-Jordanian line shared by Israelis, such as Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who believe the route to a peace settlement with the Palestinians lies through Jordan.

Shawwa also set up a charitable society that served as a de facto Jordanian Mission in Gaza, issuing travel documents to the local population.

According to Weizman, who is a Labor minister without portfolio in the Cabinet, "Shawwa's death symbolizes the death of the veteran Palestinian leadership."

"I hope that a new, younger leadership will take its place soon, and will realize that they must reach an understanding with us," Weizman said.

Shawwa is survived by his wife and four children.

**IDF UPROOTS JEWISH SETTLERS,
BARS KAHANE'S PARTY FROM HEBRON**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force is facing down militant Jewish settlers in the West Bank.

It also prevented Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach party from holding its convention Wednesday in Hebron, a largely Arab town in the West Bank.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned the mayors of Jewish townships and settlements in the territory Tuesday that the army would continue to block attempts to establish unauthorized settlements.

Four such attempts were thwarted Sunday and Monday near Jericho and Ramallah. Soldiers physically removed would-be settlers. But the settlers insisted they would continue their efforts.

The IDF declared Hebron a closed military zone and prevented outsiders from entering the town Wednesday. The Kach party had hired a private hall in downtown Hebron.

Baruch Mazel, a Kach spokesman, contended there was no need for the army's permission to hold a rally in private premises. But Rabin insisted a special permit was required.

Defense Ministry policy in recent years has been to withhold permission for political demonstrations in the territories. There have been a few exceptions, most recently the Peace Now rally held near Nablus last May.

AID TO TERRITORIES WILL CONTINUE
By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Israel will continue to work for the economic development of the territories it administers, despite the violence of the Palestinian uprising, an Israeli official told an international panel here Wednesday.

Avraham Milo, minister-counselor of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva, addressed the board meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

"Twenty-one years of Israeli administration have contributed to many economic benefits in the territories," Milo said, and "recent developments have not weakened our determination."

"The basic services will continue to be provided by the civil administration," Milo said.

DUKAKIS TO FORM JEWISH CAMPAIGN OUTREACH GROUP

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- Michael Dukakis is expected to formally name a national group of prominent Jewish supporters next week, in hopes of boosting his presidential bid as the election campaign reaches its stretch run.

"This is the time in the campaign where people really begin to focus on the issues," said Steven Grossman, the newly appointed co-chairman of the National Jewish Leadership Council for Dukakis-Bentsen.

In addition to having seven co-chairpeople, the group will have a steering committee of 20 to 25 prominent Jews.

The group's aim is to "get the message to the Jewish community as to why they are supporting Dukakis," a Dukakis campaign source said.

The source added that while some of the groups' leaders have been generous contributors to the Dukakis campaign, "this is not a fund-raising vehicle."

The co-chairs are:

- David Hermelin of Detroit, president of the American ORT Federation; international campaign chairman for State of Israel Bonds; and national vice chairman of the United Jewish Appeal.

- Morton Mandel of Cleveland, past president of the Council of Jewish Federations and the Jewish Welfare Board. Mandel heads Dukakis' Jewish outreach committee in Ohio.

- Steven Grossman of Boston, a member of the executive committee of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, who co-chairs Dukakis' national finance committee.

- Edward Sanders of Los Angeles, former president of AIPAC, who left that post to serve as senior adviser to President Jimmy Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on the Middle East. Sanders heads Dukakis' Jewish outreach committee in California.

- Dan Shapiro of New York, past president of the UJA Federation of New York and currently vice president of the CJF.

- Howard Squadron of New York, former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and former president of the American Jewish Congress.

- Elaine Winik of Rye, N.Y., past president of the women's division of UJA and a national UJA vice chairperson. Squadron and Winik co-chair Dukakis' Jewish outreach committee in New York.

Issues of Jewish Concern

Hermelin said the group's purpose will be to show voters that there are Jewish leaders who are "supportive" of Dukakis, but also to advise Dukakis and give him "informed opinions as to the issues that concern the Jewish population."

Sanders said the group's goal is "to advance the cause of Dukakis in the Jewish community and to act as surrogates" for him.

According to Sanders, the group plans to initially meet Dukakis in Boston during the first week in October.

With the exception of Hermelin, noticeably absent from the list of co-chairpeople are current presidents of Jewish groups, although many Jewish organizations have rules prohibiting or restricting partisan political activities by their leaders.

Grossman cited one concern, that of pre-

serving "the integrity of the philanthropic mission" of groups that could potentially jeopardize their tax-exempt status.

One prominent Democratic Jewish political observer was less than satisfied about Dukakis' selection of co-chairs, saying the Massachusetts governor could have done "much better."

He said that "some of the names on the Democratic side don't stack up with some of the heavyweights on the Republican side," citing three prominent Jews in Vice President George Bush's National Jewish Campaign Committee: Max Fisher of Detroit, Gordon Zacks of Columbus, Ohio, and Richard Fox of Philadelphia.

The Republicans, unlike the Democrats, also have a year-round Jewish political group called the National Jewish Coalition, which is an outgrowth of the first Reagan-Bush campaign of 1980.

28 POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTER TO COMPETE IN ISRAELI ELECTIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 28 (JTA) -- No fewer than 28 political parties will compete for the 120 Knesset seats in Israel's general elections on Nov. 1.

All had duly registered and paid their \$7,660 deposit by the time the lists closed at midnight Wednesday.

But the number of competing parties could be reduced by two. Lawsuits have been filed to bar Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach party and the Progressive List for Peace, from participating in the race. The Progressive List is an Arab-Jewish faction at the far left of the political spectrum.

Israel's High Court of Justice will have to decide those cases before Election Day.

The proliferation of parties is due in large measure to the unprecedented fragmentation of the religious block into six rival factions.

It was caused by 11th-hour splits in the Agudat Yisrael and Shas parties. The National Religious Party split in half several months ago. And a new middle-of-the-road religious party, Meimad, was launched recently by Rabbi Yehuda Amital.

An Agudah breakaway list was set up at the urging of the party's Bnei Brak sage, Rabbi Eliezer Schach. It is headed by Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, a well known Jerusalem yeshiva head, and represents the Lithuanian element in the Agudah camp.

Schach has been feuding with the party's Hasidic faction.

The Shas party broke apart when one of its Knesset members, Shimon Ben-Shlomo, discovered he had not been given a safe spot on the party's election list.

Ben-Shlomo is allied with Baruch Abuhatzeira, son of the late holy man, Baba Sali. This is the Moroccan or "Baba" branch of the party, which has challenged the Shas establishment.

Apart from the ferment in the religious ranks, little other drama has developed. Likud has managed to resolve its internal dispute over the one-man Ometz faction of former Finance Minister Yigael Hurvitz.

Pressed by Premier Yitzhak Shamir, the party agreed to place Hurvitz in the sixth spot and his lieutenant, Zalman Shoval, in the 40th, which is considered realistic under Israel's proportional representation system.

**5748 IN REVIEW:
THE BIG CRASH AND A NEW CLASH
BETWEEN BLACKS AND JEWS IN U.S.**
[Part 3 Of A Series]
JTA Staff Report

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last month, JTA's New York and Washington staffs compiled an extensive round-up of key news stories that broke during the Jewish year 5748. The 40-page compendium was published in JTA's Features package, which is distributed to Jewish weekly newspapers.

Following is the third and final part of a condensed version of that compendium. For a copy of JTA's entire "5748 in Review," send your name, your address and \$10 to: Year in Review, JTA, 330 Seventh Ave., 11th floor, New York, N.Y. 10001.

In America, 5748 was a year of economic uncertainty, political scandal and renewed tension between blacks and Jews. And as the rift between the movements of Judaism variously widened and narrowed, Conservative Jews struggled to reach a consensus on such divisive issues as the status of women as cantors.

The Jewish year got off to a rocky start with the stock market crash of Oct. 19. In the days and weeks after "Black Monday," when Wall Street suffered its greatest plunge in history, leaders of American Jewish organizations fretted over how the collapse would impact their fund-raising efforts and endowment funds.

There was particular concern in New York, where the stock market is not only an indicator of the state of the economy, but the work place of some of the Jewish community's biggest givers. The year closed, however, with both the market and Jewish philanthropy on relatively stable footing.

Two American corporations suffered economic setbacks of their own, when they agreed to pay fines imposed for alleged violations of the 10-year-old Export Administration Act. The law, enforced by the U.S. Department of Commerce, bars corporations from complying in any way with the Arab boycott of Israel.

Largest Fine In History

In March, the Oakland-based Safeway supermarket chain paid a \$995,000 penalty, the largest in history, rather than face more than \$4 million in fines in connection with its supply of product lists to supermarkets in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In August, the Sara Lee Corporation of Chicago agreed to pay a \$725,000 penalty for supplying boycott-related information in an effort to register its L'eggs trademark in Kuwait.

There were embarrassments in the political world, as well. Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), a longtime friend of Israel, became the center of controversy for introducing a last-minute appropriations amendment in late December to funnel \$8 million to yeshivas in France. He withdrew the bill in February, conceding an error in judgment.

Political scandal mired the Republicans, too, as allegations surfaced in January that an aide and close friend of Attorney General Edwin Meese had proposed making payments to Israel's Labor Party in exchange for promises that Israel would not destroy a planned oil pipeline from Iraq to Jordan.

Meese, who later resigned, was cleared of any wrongdoing. The friend, Jewish financier E.

Robert Wallach of San Francisco, is still facing charges. The pipeline was never built.

Meese's Justice Department was also preoccupied during the year with trying to shut down the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission to the United Nations, as mandated by the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987.

The battle, which some Jewish organizations supported and others sidestepped, was ultimately lost, after both the World Court and a U.S. district court ruled that closing the mission would be a violation of America's obligations as host country to the United Nations.

Tensions Over Koch Remark

Of course, the biggest American political story of the year was the presidential election campaign -- and Kitty Dukakis' Yiddishkeit was not the only issue that made Jewish news.

The hotly contested New York primary campaign deteriorated into ethnic mudslinging after Mayor Ed Koch said Jews "would be crazy" to vote for Jesse Jackson, the living symbol of black aspirations.

Black-Jewish relations also received a tremendous setback in Chicago, where an aide to Acting Mayor Eugene Sawyer made a series of wildly anti-Semitic charges. The aide, Steve Cokely, was quoted in April as saying that Jewish doctors inject black babies with the virus that causes AIDS. What outraged Jews was the black leaders' reluctance to repudiate Cokely and the mayor's delay in firing him.

Then in Los Angeles, a series of racist memos calling for a Jewish-financed campaign to unseat Mayor Tom Bradley, who is black, threatened to shake up one of the strongest black-Jewish alliances of any American city. The memos, written by consultants to Bradley's Jewish challenger, City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky, were repudiated by the candidate himself, who apologized.

In religious life, the three major institutions of the Conservative movement achieved something of a milestone by issuing the first common statement of principles in the movement's 143-year history. The statement outlined Conservative Judaism's stands on such issues as belief in God, religious pluralism and the role of women in Judaism.

But it became clear that the document did not end the ongoing battle between progressive leaders in the Conservative mainstream and the so-called traditionalists. In May, the latter scored a victory, when the Cantors Assembly, the world's largest professional body of chazanim, voted to reject a proposal to admit qualified women members.

The Lubavitchers also had cause for celebration in 5748, when a federal district court judge awarded a library of rare religious texts to the Brooklyn-based Hasidic movement. But the community also suffered a tragic loss, with the death of the rebbe's wife, Chaya Moussia Schneerson.

Other celebrated Jews to die in 5748 included violinist Jascha Heifetz, Nobel laureate Isidor Isaac Rabi, theologian Seymour Siegel, philanthropist Martin Citrin, journalist David Schoenbrun and former Congresswoman Gladys Noon Spellman.