

**ARABS PLAN TO MOVE U.N. MEETING;
U.S. DEFENDS DENIAL OF ARAFAT VISA**
By Andrew Silow Carroll

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- The Arab League will wait until Wednesday before asking the General Assembly to move its annual debate on the Palestinian issue to United Nations European headquarters in Geneva.

Arab League envoy Clovis Maksoud said the waiting period was set in order to allow time for the United States to reconsider its decision to deny Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat permission to come to New York to address the world body on Thursday.

Moving the meeting to Geneva presumably would allow Arafat to participate in the debate.

The Arab nations insist they have enough votes within the 159-member General Assembly to support moving the session, although there was uncertainty Monday whether a simple or two-thirds majority is needed for approval.

The campaign reportedly is being spearheaded by Jordan and Egypt.

In Washington, meanwhile, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the United States does not support or oppose a possible special session of the General Assembly in Geneva. The United States would be represented, he said.

Redman said the U.S. decision on the visa denial is "firm and final."

U.N. officials and delegates have been critical of the U.S. decision since it was announced Saturday afternoon.

Secretary-General Critical

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Sunday that the denial of the visa is "incompatible with the obligation of the host country" under the 1947 Headquarters Agreement placing the United Nations in New York.

Perez de Cuellar said the timing of the U.S. decision was "unfortunate" because of the recent meeting of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers, which, he said, "provides fresh opportunities for progress towards peace in the Middle East."

The PLO hoped that a declaration it issued at the Algiers meeting would be taken as evidence that it had moderated its stance toward Israel. The statement included acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which indirectly recognizes Israel.

European nations welcomed the declaration. But the State Department's rejection of Arafat's visa request seemed the Reagan administration's final word on the PNC meeting, which it feels did not go far enough in explicitly recognizing Israel or denouncing terrorism.

More criticism was heard Monday at a session of the 15-member U.N. Committee on Host Country Relations. The committee could recommend that the United Nations take legal action to reverse the U.S. decision.

U.S. Ambassador Patricia Byrne told the committee that the State Department's decision was part of the U.S. government's "right to protect its national security."

Byrne said the United States had denied visas in the past to several diplomats, including

Iranians linked to the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Teheran in 1978.

She noted that visas have been issued to members of the PLO, including the head of the PLO's observer mission to the United Nations, Zehdi Terzi.

Arafat 'Condone' Terrorism

She also referred to Arafat's U.N. appearance in 1974, when the PLO chairman declared that he had come "bearing an olive branch and a freedom fighter's gun."

But Byrne said the United States has evidence that Arafat "knows of, condones and lends support" to the actions of Force 17, Arafat's personal security force, and Hawari, which conducts special operations for Al Fatah, the terrorist arm of the PLO controlled by Arafat.

Byrne said both forces have perpetrated terrorist acts recently.

Israeli officials had no immediate response to talk of moving the annual debate on "the question of Palestine" to Geneva. A spokesman for the Israeli Mission to the United Nations said Israel welcomes the U.S. decision, which was "wise, correct and timely."

"In view of Arafat's view on terrorism, he should not be welcomed in the United States," the spokesman said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Redman said that Secretary of State George Shultz did not consult with pro-Israel groups in making his decision to deny Arafat a visa.

Redman was responding in part to accusations by Arab nations and others that the United States had bowed to pressure from Israel and the pro-Israel lobby.

Asked why Arafat was allowed entry in 1974 and not now, Redman said each application is examined "in its place in time."

O'Connor Report Denied

In response to criticism that the U.S. decision will discourage PLO moderation, Redman said, "There's probably no other country in the world that has worked as hard at the peace process as the United States has done. And we certainly have every intention of continuing to do that."

"But there are other issues in the world," he said. "One of the most important issues is terrorism, and that is the issue that we come face to face with when we look at this visa request."

Saying no to terrorism was also at the heart of President Reagan's support of Shultz's decision.

Asked Sunday if the United States wasn't sending out a wrong signal in seeming to discourage the PLO's so-called moderation, Reagan said: "I think the other way would have sent out the wrong signal: that we were paties."

In New York, a spokesman for Cardinal John O'Connor denied a published report that the Catholic leader had urged the U.S. government to allow Arafat to speak at the United Nations.

The spokesman provided a transcript of the news conference cited in the report, in which O'Connor said he was "surprised" that the visa was denied. But he called the decision complicated and said he could see "both sides" of the issue.

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

EUROPEAN NATIONS ANGRY AT U.S. FOR DENYING ARAFAT AN ENTRY VISA

By Edwia Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- America's European allies are expressing surprise and anger over the U.S. State Department's refusal of a visa to Yasir Arafat and are demanding explanations.

The Palestine Liberation Organization chief wants to come to New York to address the United Nations General Assembly.

His visa application was rejected Saturday by Secretary of State George Shultz, who cited Arafat's record of support for terrorism, including terrorist acts against Americans.

France already has asked the United States to reconsider. A statement published Sunday evening by the Foreign Ministry was easily one of the most critical of American policy in recent years.

In Rome, the Italian Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. Embassy charge d'affaires, John Holmes, for consultations Sunday.

In an official statement, the ministry expressed Italy's "great astonishment" at the U.S. decision and hoped it could be changed.

In London, the news media quoted an unnamed government adviser as saying the U.S. decision was "unfortunate if it inhibits moderation in the Middle East."

The Western European governments clearly see domestic political motivations behind the American stand.

That was echoed by French radio and television, which charged that the American administration pays more attention to Israel's friends in Congress than to the situation in the Middle East.

Imperiling PLO 'Moderation'

The Europeans also argue that Washington has rejected and thereby imperiled the new "moderation" they detected at the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers earlier this month.

It was there that the PNC, the PLO's so-called parliament, accepted U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which imply recognition of Israel.

The French Foreign Ministry statement observed that Arafat's visit to New York would be "particularly desirable at the moment, when the position voiced by the PNC marks an evolution that needs to be encouraged by the international community."

The communique pointed out that the Palestinian leader has appeared before the United Nations in New York in the past.

At the Vatican meanwhile, Pope John Paul II reiterated his support for both Israeli and Palestinian homelands.

Although he has said this before, the remarks at his weekly address following Mass on Sunday were interpreted as indirectly supportive of the new Palestinian position.

They were his first allusion to the subject since the PNC meeting in Algiers and were delivered against the background of Christmas preparations and a United Nations-sponsored "day of solidarity with the Palestinians."

The pontiff called on "the parties involved" to "seek a way of putting an end as quickly as possible to the suffering of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as of thousands of their refugee brothers."

(JTA correspondent Ruth E. Gruber in Rome contributed to this report.)

LIKUD AND LABOR RESUME TALKS ON NATIONAL UNITY COALITION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- The Labor Party and the Likud seemed to be inching toward a broad coalition partnership late Monday.

But there are plenty of pitfalls, including a reported 48-hour deadline set by Likud for Labor to accept its terms.

Advocates of a broad-based coalition government were encouraged, however, by a meeting Monday between Labor Party leader Shimon Peres and Premier Yitzhak Shamir, who heads the Likud. It was the first meeting between the parties since Labor broke off negotiations with Likud last Tuesday.

Peres, the foreign minister, was accompanied by Labor's No. 2 man, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin. On hand with Shamir was his close associate, Moshe Arens, who ran Likud's election campaign.

Peres declined to comment on what transpired. But party Secretary-General Uzi Baram predicted "a standoff." Baram and other powerful figures in Labor say they would prefer an opposition role in the new Knesset.

Israel Radio reported Monday night that Shamir went a long way toward meeting Labor's demands for senior Cabinet positions in the next government.

Peres and Rabin would retain the foreign and defense ministries respectively, Israel Radio said. There also was agreement on equal representation for each party in the Inner Cabinet, the government's top policy-making body.

Several Sticking Points

Baram confirmed that Shamir had offered Labor two of the four top portfolios. Shamir will hold the prime ministership. The other three are the foreign affairs, defense and finance portfolios.

According to the Israel Radio report, there are several sticking points. Likud wants to have one more minister than Labor. And it insists that not all issues be referred to the Inner Cabinet.

Likud, for example, does not want controversies over Jewish settlements in the administered territories brought to that arena. If they were, the far right-wing parties, Tehiya, Tsomet and Moledet, would refuse to join the broad government.

From Labor's point of view, however, that is all the more reason to insist that the Inner Cabinet have the last word.

According to other reports, Likud decided to allow no more than 48 hours for an agreement to be reached.

After that deadline, Shamir and his ministers reportedly are resolved to abandon talks with Labor and put together, "within 24 hours," a coalition with the secular right-wing and ultra-Orthodox parties.

But the religious bloc has eroded somewhat. The newest and smallest of the Orthodox factions, Degel HaTorah, announced Sunday that it is now "irrevocably" opposed to a narrow Likud-led coalition.

The party's leader, Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, said a unity government is needed to prevent a further rift between religious and secular Israelis.

The National Religious Party also is having second thoughts about a narrow government. NRP leaders urged Peres on Monday to join Shamir in a broad-based coalition.

DIASPORA OUTCRY PROMPTING PARTIES TO RECONSIDER A UNITY COALITION
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- Diaspora Jewry's determined efforts to have the divisive "Who Is a Jew" legislation removed from Israel's political agenda may influence the composition of the next government.

The latest American Jewish leader to speak out against it was Morris Abram, chairman of the powerful Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

He warned at a news conference here Monday that a law which would "change the principle of one destiny" for the entire Jewish people would certainly be "a mistake."

As he spoke, another group of American Jewish leaders, representing 27 national organizations, landed at Ben-Gurion Airport to join in the ongoing lobbying effort with government ministers and politicians.

All of this pressure being brought to bear on a single issue is viewed here as a factor in Likud's efforts to establish a broad governing coalition with the Labor Party.

If it succeeds, observers here believe the proposed amendment to the Law of Return demanded by the ultra-Orthodox parties will once again be defeated in the Knesset.

A broad coalition would eliminate Likud's dependence on the religious parties to establish a governing majority in the 120-member Knesset.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir would no longer be bound by his promise to the religious parties to push through the amendment, which would deny automatic Israeli citizenship to persons converted by non-Orthodox rabbis.

'Symbolic Problem' For Diaspora

Shamir, the Likud leader, discussed the prospect of a national unity government Monday night with Shimon Peres, who heads the Labor Party. (See story on Page 2.)

Diaspora Jewry is aroused by the "Who Is a Jew" issue because the proposed change would delegitimize Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist branches of Judaism with which the vast majority of Diaspora Jews are affiliated.

Abram refused to speculate on the possible fate of the Orthodox-inspired amendment when he spoke to reporters. He said he was not qualified to comment on the details of Israel's political process.

Although he made clear that he thought the measure was unfortunate, he stressed to the reporters that he was speaking as "an individual observer," not in his capacity as chairman of the Conference of Presidents.

The conference is an umbrella organization of 48 national Jewish organizations in the United States and Canada. Its purpose is to speak with a single voice on matters of concern to Israel and Jews generally.

Many of the individual organizations differ politically and ideologically.

Abram explained that the Conference of Presidents avoided debates or pronouncements on issues of a theological nature, because its "power and influence lies in the fact that it speaks with one voice."

But he clearly implied that the "Who Is a Jew" battle was a central issue in the series of meetings he has had this week with top Israeli leaders.

He declined, however, to discuss those conversations. Abram was accompanied by the executive director of the conference, Malcolm Hoenlein.

Abram stressed that redefining who is a Jew in Israel is a serious "symbolic problem" for many American Jews, because it seems to them to mean the exclusion of some Jews "even though this is not intentional."

Decries 'Orthodox-Bashing'

"It is an extremely divisive issue," Abram declared. He said supporters of the legislation "do not understand the depth of feeling" their "proposal arouses among its opponents."

At the same time, Abram said descriptions of the amendment as "catastrophic" are "perhaps a little too strong." That was the term used by Leon (Arye) Dulzin, former chairman of the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency Executive.

Abram also took an opportunity to deplore "Orthodox-bashing" by Diaspora Jews who are upset about the drive to amend the Law of Return.

It is "a terrible thing," he said, urging Jews "in the interests of the unity of the Jewish people" to "keep emotions cool and get the facts straight."

But the American Jewish leader injected a personal note. "I have so many friends and members of my family who would be affected if they were to exercise (their right to Israeli citizenship). It isn't that they intend to exercise these rights. It is the symbolic issue," he said.

Abram's first wife underwent a Reform conversion, according to the Jewish Press, a Brooklyn tabloid. The paper claimed in a recent edition that he is concerned his children and grandchildren may one day not be recognized as Jews in Israel.

IDF KILLS ARMED INFILTRATOR, BOMBS BASES IN SOUTH LEBANON
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- An armed infiltrator was killed by Israel Defense Force troops in the southern Lebanon security zone Sunday morning.

The clash occurred when an IDF patrol intercepted a gang near Kafir Rashef, in the western sector of the zone. The rest of the gang fled northward. There were no Israeli casualties.

On Friday, Israeli air force jets conducted their second raid in a week on targets in southern Lebanon.

Reports from Lebanon said five persons were killed and 15 injured when four rocket-firing jets struck at terrorist bases northeast of the port city of Sidon.

Anti-aircraft fire was encountered at a low level, but all aircraft returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman said.

The terrorist groups targeted were identified as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by George Habash, and the Popular Nasserite Organization, described as a militia of Lebanese Sunni Moslems.

Local reports said the planes fired eight rockets in two passes, five minutes apart. They destroyed a camouflaged, one-story building, hidden in an orange grove, that was used by both organizations.

An adjacent one-story building belonging to the Sunni militia was damaged. A large ammunition dump also was said to have been destroyed.

**ARGENTINA APPROVES NAZI EXTRADITION;
ADL SAYS DUTCH WAR CRIMINAL MISSING**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- An Argentine judge has approved the extradition to West Germany of accused Nazi war criminal Josef Schwammberger.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith reported that Argentine Federal Judge Vicente Bretal of La Plata ruled Monday in favor of the extradition of Schwammberger, 76, who is accused of brutally shooting and torturing hundreds of Jews in Poland as commandant of a ghetto and several labor camps during World War II.

Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, ADL Latin American affairs director, who visited Argentina two weeks ago to discuss suspected fugitive Nazis in that country, received the news Monday by phone from Argentine Attorney General Andres Jose d'Alessio.

D'Alessio, who had discussed the Schwammberger case with Rosenthal in Argentina, said an appeal was anticipated but that he expects that Schwammberger will have his citizenship revoked and that he will be deported to West Germany.

D'Alessio said the first appeal decision would probably come in around March.

"We are very pleased by the court's decision and we are confident that the decision will be upheld by the appeals court," said Rosenthal.

The West German government first requested Schwammberger's extradition 14 years ago.

Documents provided by a Stuttgart court described him as a former SS officer responsible for hundreds of executions while commandant of the Rozwadow ghetto in 1942.

Schwammberger also served at the Przemysl labor camp at the end of 1943 and as director of a labor camp at Mielec in 1944-45.

Schwammberger, a native of Austria, was arrested a year ago on a remote ranch in the Argentine province of Cordoba, and has been detained in that country since.

Admitted Nazi

Argentine authorities involved in his arrest claimed Schwammberger did not deny he was a camp commandant in Nazi-occupied Poland.

Four Holocaust survivors, accompanied by staff people from the Simon Wiesenthal Center, traveled to Argentina this summer from the United States and Canada to testify against Schwammberger.

The Wiesenthal Center hailed Judge Bretal's decision.

One of the eyewitnesses who testified against Schwammberger last year, Abraham Secemski of Chicago, told the center Monday, "I now feel confident that Schwammberger will at long last have to stand before the bar of justice."

In another development, ADL's Rosenthal also reported Monday the apparent disappearance of accused Dutch Nazi Abraham Kipp, who was previously located in Argentina.

Rosenthal said Dutch television reported Nov. 24 that Kipp, tried and sentenced to death in absentia in 1949 by a Dutch court for the murder of at least 20 persons, reportedly disappeared and that his house outside Buenos Aires boasts a "for sale" sign.

Kipp, who was born in Amsterdam, served the occupying Nazi forces as a policeman, reportedly rounding up members of the Dutch resistance and other men, women and children, including many Jews, ADL reports.

**UNOFFICIAL HUNGARIAN TRADE GROUP
COMES TO ISRAEL ON DIRECT FLIGHT**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- A large Hungarian trade delegation is in Israel to promote commercial ties between the two countries, which have no diplomatic relations.

The 150-member group includes business leaders and officials of the Hungarian Finance Ministry and Hungarian Chamber of Commerce.

The delegation arrived here Saturday night in two chartered Soviet-made Tupolov jets owned by Malev, the Hungarian national airline.

The flight was a preview of the regular air service scheduled to begin, most likely in April, between Budapest and Tel Aviv. It will be provided jointly by Malev and El Al, Israel's national air carrier.

The service will be inaugurated after agreement is reached between the two governments on security arrangements for Israeli planes demanded by El Al.

The Hungarian visitors were the guests Monday morning of the Israel Industrialists Association. They were scheduled later to visit the Tel Aviv Diamond Exchange.

Finished diamonds are one of Israel's major exports. Commerce and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon has hinted he would like to see Israel purchase rough diamonds from the Soviet Union to avoid dependence on the London-based De Beers sales organization, which has a monopoly on diamonds from South Africa.

Hungary could serve as an intermediary for the import of rough stones from the Soviet Union. Israel currently has neither diplomatic nor official trade relations with the USSR.

The delegation leaders stressed that their visit is unofficial. They observed, however, that improved trade relations would inevitably lead to "other relations."

There is, in fact, an unofficial flow of trade between Israel and Hungary, amounting to some \$20 million a year. The delegation hopes to raise the level of exchange and make it official.

**JUDGE DENIES MOTION AGAINST JNF
OVER FUNDS DISTRIBUTED IN TERRITORIES**

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Nov. 28 (JTA) -- A New York Supreme Court judge denied a motion for a restraining order against the Jewish National Fund of America Monday, according to Stuart Paskow, JNF director of communications and information.

Judge Shirley Fingerhood rejected a request by four plaintiffs in the case, who charged that they and other American Jews who have contributed money to the JNF were misled to believe that the JNF allocates funds also to the territories captured by Israel in 1967.

The four plaintiffs -- Jay Marcus, William Goldman, Morris Stillman and Martin Gallin -- brought a class action suit seeking to restrain JNF from expending the money they contributed to the agency.

They claim that the money totals thousands of dollars, but JNF argues that its records show they only contributed \$400.

The plaintiffs are supporters of the right-wing Tehiya party in Israel, which considers the territories part of the biblical land of Israel.

Paskow said that lawyers for the JNF will now move to dismiss the entire suit.