

AMERICAN JEWS TO MEET WITH ARAFAT IN STOCKHOLM AT SWEDEN'S INVITATION

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- A group of American Jews plans to meet with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat in Stockholm on Tuesday, the Swedish Embassy in Washington has confirmed.

A spokesman for the embassy said Monday that Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson had facilitated the meeting as "part of Sweden's efforts to contribute to the peace process."

He declined to name the Americans.

Arafat is also expected to confer with Andersson, Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson and Thage Peterson, speaker of the Swedish Parliament.

The PLO maintains a representative's office in Stockholm.

Leaders of mainstream American Jewish organizations could not identify the participants in the scheduled meeting with Arafat.

"We know of no meeting by any responsible or representative American Jewish leaders with Yasir Arafat in Sweden or any other country," Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said in a statement Monday.

The conference represents 48 national Jewish organizations.

Arafat is scheduled to speak next week to a specially convened session of the U.N. General Assembly in Geneva. The assembly's annual debate on the Palestinians was shifted to the United Nations' European headquarters there after the U.S. State Department refused to allow Arafat to come to New York to address the world body.

American Jews have met in the past with Arafat. Last year, Jerome Segal, a philosophy professor at the University of Maryland who has written extensively on the peace process, met with Arafat as part of a small delegation of Jews from American peace groups.

Segal said Monday that he was not taking part in the Stockholm meeting and could not identify any of the participants.

A spokesman for the PLO observer mission to the United Nations confirmed that the meeting had been arranged by Sweden, but offered no other details.

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

HERZOG GIVES SHAMIR AN EXTENSION, BUT CALLS FOR A UNITY GOVERNMENT

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog, in a move unprecedented for an Israeli chief of state, called unequivocally Monday for a broadly based Likud-Labor unity government.

Declaring that only a broad government could offer the country "the stability it needs," Herzog said he was acting on his conscience to try to advance the will of the majority.

The president made his views known to the news media shortly after he gave Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir an additional 21 days to try to

form a government.

But to show he "meant business" when he called for a broad regime, Herzog arranged a meeting Tuesday with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader.

These developments caused new uncertainty, more than a month after the Nov. 1 Knesset elections, over when and what kind of government Israel will have.

The original 21 days Shamir got from Herzog to form a government expired Monday. Shamir asked for an extension so that Likud could solidify a narrow governing coalition with the Orthodox and right-wing parties.

The opportunity arose Sunday night when the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Yisrael party renounced a previous agreement with the Labor Party and decided to cast its lot with Likud.

Until Monday evening, therefore, it seemed likely that Shamir would put together a 65-seat governing majority in the 120-member Knesset, in partnership with religious and political extremists.

Herzog's unexpected intervention has put that scenario in doubt.

'The Situation Is Unusual'

The presidency of Israel is a highly prestigious office that lacks real political power. Presidents have rarely intervened in partisan politics, and when they have expressed political opinions, they have done so in private.

Herzog made the point to the news media Monday night that it was not "common practice" for the president to express himself in this manner. But "the situation is unusual," he declared.

The problem is moral rather than political, Herzog said. "My conscience forces me, at this hour, to express my views." He said he was offering his help to try to satisfy "the will of the majority of the people."

Shamir made it clear that he was proceeding with his efforts to establish a narrow government. He added, however, that he has not given up hope for a broader base.

According to observers, Shamir plans to create his rightist-religious coalition and present it to Labor as a fait accompli, with an offer to join.

But an influential Labor minister ruled out joining a Likud-led government. Economic Coordination Minister Gad Yaacobi said that if Labor formed an alliance with Likud, it would have to be before, not after, a new government is formed.

Housing Minister David Levy of Likud, who advocates a coalition with Labor, said Monday he hoped it was still possible.

Meanwhile, a long-simmering feud exploded Monday in the top ranks of the Labor Party that could eventually topple its present leadership.

Labor has sustained a series of blows in recent days that have thrown it into disarray. On Nov. 30, the party's leadership bureau voted by secret ballot to reject a deal for a broad coalition government with Likud.

The vote was a stunning upset because the Laborite ministers, with one exception, had been urging acceptance of Shamir's terms.

That was followed Sunday by what amounted to a slap in the face by Agudat Yisrael, after an ardent courtship by Labor.

The dam burst Monday and the decades-long bitterness between Peres and Labor's No. 2 man, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, poured out in a flood of recrimination and personal insults.

Rabin made a series of public statements accusing Peres and his aides of torpedoing the chances of a new Labor-Likud unity government.

Rabin And Peres Trade Charges

Peres and his lieutenants countercharged that Rabin had killed the hope of a narrow-based government led by Labor.

The exchanges became strident Monday with ominous implications for the party's future.

Rabin, appearing on Israel Radio, attacked Yossi Beilin, recent political director general of the Foreign Ministry and Peres' closest confidant.

He accused Beilin of conducting unauthorized negotiations with the Agudah and called him "Peres' poodle," a reverse anthropomorphism quickly picked up by the news media.

Beilin, interviewed later, declined to answer in kind. But he accused Rabin of setting terms for joining a Likud government without the party's authorization.

The United Kibbutz Movement, an important Labor affiliate close to Rabin, demanded Monday that the party's policy-making forums be convened to reconsider its rejection of Likud's terms.

Rabin himself insisted that an alliance with Likud is still possible.

Although the most recent turn of events make a unity government highly unlikely in the opinion of political observers, Shamir has thorny problems within his own party.

Shamir Facing Internal Pressures

Herut hard-liner Ariel Sharon has made clear he wants back his old portfolio as defense minister in a Likud-led government. He was forced to give up the post after the scandal surrounding the 1982 massacres in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, near Beirut.

Housing Minister Levy, a deputy premier in the outgoing government, reportedly is demanding the portfolio of foreign minister in the next government, or a similarly senior post.

If Shamir fails to meet the demands of Sharon, Levy and other senior party officials, he could face an internal revolt in Likud.

Many pundits have said in recent weeks that Shamir would have preferred to retain Rabin as defense minister. That would be possible in a Likud-Labor alliance, which may be the reason why Rabin has worked hard to bring one about.

In a late-night statement, Rabin accused "certain persons" in Labor of undertaking "hopelessly doomed gambits" -- a reference to the unsuccessful wooing of Agudat Yisrael. He said such a move was responsible for causing "the prospective creation of a rightist-extremist Orthodox government and torpedoing the chances of a Likud-Labor government."

Peres, in his own statement, acknowledged that the move toward the Agudah had failed. He said he now "looked forward to serving as a peace alternative in the opposition."

But if Labor ultimately goes into opposition to the new government, there will undoubtedly be deep soul-searching within the party over its future.

Rabin apparently believes that process will end with the removal of Peres and his own reascendancy to the party leadership.

Like Peres, Rabin is a former prime minister.

He succeeded the late Golda Meir in 1974 and bowed to Likud's Menachem Begin in 1977.

But many political observers believe the "long knives" are about to be drawn in Labor circles, triggering a rebellion by a new generation of politicians that will eventually depose both of the former premiers.

SURVEY FINDS WEST BANK ARABS LONG FOR END TO THE INTIFADA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The vast majority of Palestinians in the West Bank are fed up with the uprising in the territories and want to get on with their normal lives, according to a study made by two lecturers at Bir Zeit University on behalf of Oxford University in Britain.

The survey, conducted among 2,100 Arab residents of 50 localities in the West Bank, showed that 80 percent believe the year-old intifada has not achieved its goals.

Among married men, 92 percent said they were bored by prolonged idleness at home forced on them by the uprising.

Of 730 Arab merchants questioned, 594 reported serious loss of income this past year. Ninety-six percent said they closed their shops for fear of reprisals, not because they wanted to observe the commercial strikes ordered by leaders of the uprising.

The survey found that 60 percent of Palestinian laborers were fired from their jobs in Israel because of prolonged absences due to the uprising.

Eighty-five percent of those questioned said they suffered a drop in living standards. Their families could afford to eat meat no more than once a month.

The frequent closure of universities that have become centers of Palestinian nationalism, such as Bir Zeit near Ramallah, has Arab students worried. The survey found that 95 percent of high school graduates plan to go to college abroad if the universities in the territory are not reopened.

That would mean the departure of about 8,000 students, the lecturers said.

Finally, more than 80 percent of Palestinians in the Ramallah area who possess U.S. citizenship have rented their homes and gone to America.

Yediot Achronot reported, meanwhile, that "the average number of monthly attacks, which reached about 200 during the initial months of the intifada, has declined considerably in recent months."

This was attributed to vastly improved intelligence gathering by Shin Bet, Israel's internal security agency, which has led to important arrests. Nevertheless, many individuals wanted by the Shin Bet are still at large.

PALESTINIAN SCHOOLGIRL KILLED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- A 15-year-old Palestinian schoolgirl was shot to death Monday in a clash with the Israel Defense Force at the Shati refugee camp in Gaza, Arab sources reported. There was no confirmation from IDF sources.

The Arab sources identified the victim as Asma Abu-Abadde, whom they said was fatally shot by Israeli soldiers breaking up a violent demonstration at a girls school in the camp.

Four other Palestinians were wounded Monday in riots in various parts of the Gaza Strip.

SHULTZ AND PERES DENY KNOWLEDGE OF SECRET COUNTERTERRORISM PACT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz has denied any knowledge of a secret agreement the United States and Israel allegedly made to conduct counterterrorist operations using funds from the sale of arms to Iran in 1985 and 1986.

But Shultz, in an appearance Sunday on ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley" program, left open the possibility that the agreement could have been concluded without his knowledge.

"Apparently a lot of things happened in the course of the Iran-Contra business that the secretary of state didn't know about," he said. Shultz, who had opposed the sale of arms to Iran, was excluded by the White House from major decisions in the affair.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday he knew of no such agreement.

The existence of the agreement was reported Sunday by The Washington Post. The paper based its story on interviews with Amiram Nir, a counterterrorism adviser to Peres who was killed last Wednesday in an airline crash near Mexico City, where he was traveling under an assumed name.

At the State Department Monday, spokesman Charles Redman said that after further checking, the department found that "no such agreement as discussed in that Post story exists."

He said the United States shares information on terrorism with Israel and other countries. "Mr. Nir in his capacity in the Israeli government did propose a more formal agreement or memorandum of agreement in the time period of September and October 1985," Redman said.

"But that proposal was immediately rejected by the United States government," Redman said. "So that may explain where some of this story came from."

Revealed Last June In London

The Post said that Nir described the secret agreement during 13 hours of interviews in London on June 25 and 26. Nir said that he and Lt. Col. Oliver North, the former National Security Council aide, supervised the operation.

The Post agreed at the time not to reveal Nir's remarks until he decided to go public with the information. But the paper decided to publish the report after it learned of Nir's death.

North actually told the congressional committees investigating the Iran-Contra affair in 1987 of the agreement, although he said none of the counterterrorism operations that he and Nir proposed had been carried out.

But Nir told the Post that the joint operations were approved by President Reagan and Peres, who was prime minister at the time.

The Israeli government barred Nir and other Israelis from testifying before the congressional investigating committee, but supplied it with written answers to questions.

Nir, a former military reporter for Israel Television, was appointed a counterterrorism adviser by Peres. He worked with North on the sale of arms to Iran as the principle middleman between the United States and Iran.

Nir was kept on by Yitzhak Shamir when he became prime minister, but after his role in the Iran arms sale was revealed, he was largely ignored and eventually left for private business.

DUTCH LAWMAKER URGING NAZI'S EXTRADITION FROM ARGENTINA

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Dutch Liberal Parliamentarian Johan Wiebinga has asked Dutch Justice Minister Frits Korthals Altes to submit a written request to the Argentine government for the extradition of Dutch-born war criminal Abraham Kipp.

The Dutch ambassador to Argentina has orally requested Kipp's extradition, but it is believed that a written request by the Dutch justice minister himself will have more effect.

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, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

He was tried and sentenced to death in absentia in 1949 by a Dutch court for the murder of at least 20 persons.

Kipp, 71, reportedly fled to Spain in 1945 and from there to Argentina, where he became a citizen in 1953.

Vienna-based Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal began the process of pursuing the case of Kipp in October during a visit to Amsterdam.

In November, a request for Argentina's deportation of Kipp was made by the ADL in a letter by Elliot Welles, ADL's Nazi specialist.

Last week, Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of ADL's Latin American affairs department, said he had received assurances from the Argentine attorney general that Kipp could be extradited.

The matter became more complicated when Dutch television reported Nov. 24 that Kipp had allegedly vanished, and that a "for sale" was placed in front of his home outside Buenos Aires.

ZOA URGES U.S. TO BOYCOTT ARAFAT ADDRESS IN GENEVA

NEW YORK, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America has urged the United States to boycott the session of the U.N. General Assembly in Geneva, where Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir Arafat will speak.

In letters Monday to Secretary of State George Shultz and Ambassador Vernon Walters, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, ZOA President Milton Shapiro argued that "to be consistent with the position taken by the United States that terrorists and terrorism are objectionable, the American representatives should absent themselves when Arafat speaks in Geneva."

Shultz refused last month to grant Arafat an entry visa to address the General Assembly in New York on grounds that he knew of and condoned acts of terrorism against Americans and others.

The General Assembly voted overwhelmingly Friday to move its annual Palestine debate to U.N. European headquarters in Geneva, where Arafat is welcome. The debate will be held from Dec. 13 to 15.

The State Department has since made clear that the United States will be represented at the Geneva session.

Shapiro asked in his letters, "If terrorism and terrorists are objectionable to the United States, is not giving Arafat credence in Geneva equally objectionable?"

JEWS IN WEST GERMANY PONDER THEIR FUTURE

By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Are we German Jews or simply Jews in Germany?

That this question is asked 43 years after the fall of the Third Reich is evidence of a deep identity crisis among the 30,000 or so people of German nationality who identify as Jews.

All but a few hundred live in the Federal Republic of West Germany. They are finely tuned to the past and therefore nervous at any manifestation of anti-Semitism.

Periodically, they question their future in this country. Now is one of those times.

It began with a speech delivered to the Bundestag, the lower house of the West German parliament, on Nov. 10 by the then president of the Bundestag, Phillip Jenninger.

The occasion was a special session to observe the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the first organized pogrom in Nazi Germany which occurred the night of Nov. 9-10, 1938.

Jenninger, a rising young politician in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling Christian Democratic Union, gave what he considered an appropriate speech.

As he said later, he was trying to illustrate the state of mind of the Germans when they accepted and idolized Hitler.

But to many Jews and non-Jews, his speech sounded at worst like a justification of Nazi racist policies, or at best, as insensitive to Jewish feelings.

More than 50 deputies, mainly of the opposition Social Democratic and Green parties, walked out during the speech.

In the uproar that followed, Jenninger resigned his prestigious Bundestag post.

The incident also stirred a furor within the Central Council of Jews in West Germany, the representative body of the Jewish community here.

Rising To The Defense

Michael Fuerst, one of its leading members, defended Jenninger. Immediately afterward, Heinz Galinski, the outspoken 75-year-old chairman of the council, went on national television to denounce Fuerst.

Fuerst subsequently resigned from the Central Council, but retained the chairmanship of the Jewish community in the federal state of Lower Saxony.

Meanwhile, in the days that followed, neo-Nazis desecrated Jewish cemeteries in various parts of West Germany, while swastikas and anti-Semitic graffiti were scrawled on walls.

It forced Jews and non-Jews to reassess the situation of Jews and the heavily guarded Jewish community property in this country.

West Germany's counterintelligence estimates that there are about 25,000 right-wing extremists in the Federal Republic. But there are only 1,500 outright neo-Nazis and no more than 200 of those are considered militant, the intelligence sources say.

That compares with more than 60,000 left-wing extremists, some of whom show anti-Jewish bias, out of a general population of more than 60 million.

The old Nazis have mostly died out. The new generation of young neo-Nazis that has emerged include the so-called "skinheads," violence-prone teen-agers who shave their heads and wear bi-

zarre costumes.

They seem to be trying to shock people. They reject society in general. They advocate no policy.

They appear to have adopted the Nazi emblems and slogans because, at least on the face of it, nothing is as rejected and held in such disrepute by West German society as the Nazis.

Whatever faults the West Germans possess, whatever mistakes they may yet make, it is unlikely that they will embrace neo-Nazism.

Communist East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, took the easy way out after the war. It simply said it had nothing whatever to do with the Nazis and thereby absolved itself of any obligation to pay reparations to Jewish victims.

There are only a few hundred practicing Jews in East Germany.

For years, East Germany slavishly followed the Soviet line of extreme anti-Zionism which at times had elements of anti-Semitism.

Improved Relations

Now, East Germany wants to improve relations with Israel, or at least with world Jewry. It has acknowledged belatedly that it owes something, at least symbolically, to the victims of Nazism.

But it is democratic West Germany where the small Jewish community has been under constant pressure to justify its existence.

The Jenninger affair was only the latest example of events forcing Jews and non-Jews to ponder what is widely seen as a community lacking both self-confidence and faith in the future.

Jews live in this country, but they wonder if they are here to stay. Currently they have been given to calling themselves "Jews in Germany" rather than "German Jews."

They live in 65 communities, with the largest in West Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich, Hamburg, Dusseldorf and Cologne.

Many of these Jews are elderly. There seems to be no middle generation, but a young generation is rising.

The days when Jews lived with their bags packed, ready to flee at the first hint of anti-Semitism, are past.

Jewish Institutions Live

There is no lack of Jewish vitality in the Federal Republic. There are institutions such as the Central Jewish Relief Agency, the Jewish Womens' League, B'nai B'rith chapters and a Jewish students association. They have been around for a long time.

The young, who refer to themselves as German Jews, play an active role in social and political life.

In late 1985, they were able to prevent the performance of a play, "Garbage, the City and Death" by Rainer Werner Fassbinder, which many Jews and non-Jews considered anti-Semitic.

They also keep a watchful eye on anti-Semitic remarks of the extreme right and extreme left.

Last spring, the Central Council was shaken by a major scandal when its deceased chairman, the late Werner Nachmann, was exposed as an embezzler of reparations funds.

His successor, Galinski, seems to have gotten the organization back under control. But the Jenninger affair set the stage for new disputes over how to present Jewish concerns to the general public.