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**BUSH TO HOLD SUCCESSIVE MEETINGS WITH MUBARAK, SHAMIR AND HUSSEIN**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 21 (JTA) -- The White House announced the dates Tuesday for President Bush's meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the two Arab leaders most involved in the Middle East peace process.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that Bush would meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on April 3 and with Shamir on April 6. King Hussein of Jordan will see the president on May 2.

The Bush administration has taken a go-slow approach to formulating a Middle East policy, contending that it first wants to hear the views of the parties in the region.

Shamir plans to bring his own proposals to Washington, which are said to call for a period of autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip before negotiations are held on the final status of the territories.

The Bush administration appears open to this proposal, although it would like to see both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization begin to ease tensions in the territories to create a climate for negotiations.

Presumably, this will be one of the subjects raised by Robert Pelletreau Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, when he meets with PLO officials on Wednesday.

Pelletreau may also try to convince the PLO to allow the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to negotiate with Israel, rather than to continue to insist that only the PLO can negotiate the future of the Palestinians.

At the same time, Secretary of State James Baker has suggested that if negotiations cannot be initiated without PLO participation, then the PLO may have to be brought into the process.

Shamir is expected to restate Israel's opposition to negotiations with the PLO and reiterate that Israel will negotiate only with residents of the territories.

But both Mubarak and Hussein are expected to press the need for PLO participation. They are also expected to support the PLO's insistence on an international conference. Up till now, the Bush administration has been cool to the idea of such a conference.

**DESPITE DIFFERENCES ON POLICY, WORLD GATHERING ACHIEVES UNITY**

By Elli Wohlgelemer

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA) -- Except for a smattering of dissent, the Jewish solidarity conference that began Tuesday in Jerusalem seemed to accomplish what it set out to do: express to the world an allegiance between Jews in the Diaspora and the government of Israel.

In a carefully orchestrated conference designed to minimize any public dissent, government leaders and private individuals alike nevertheless addressed many controversial issues facing Israel. In doing so, they allayed the fears of many left-leaning Jews who felt that this conference would be a rubber stamp of the policies of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Some dissent was registered, however, as six demonstrators were arrested outside Binyanei Umam on Monday night, allegedly for making it difficult for guests to enter the convention hall.

The overwhelming majority of delegates who came to the conference, however, were strongly supportive of Shamir's policies.

"They all came here with predisposed minds, and most of them came with the position which they will leave with," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"But what they did," added Hoenlein, "was come together and say that, despite those differences, we can come together, and we are a united Jewish community, and we stand in solidarity with Israel."

**A Call For Arab Self-Rule**

Even those who in the past might have been critical of the government's policies expressed their support.

"A solidarity conference does not demand a uniformity on ideas," said Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. "Israel is a feisty democracy, and open debate rages within this free land."

While there was no open debate at the conference as such, government figures and Diaspora leaders expressed a range of views on such topics as the unity of the Jewish people, the Palestinian uprising in the territories, negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the "Who Is a Jew" controversy and electoral reform.

Discussing the peace process, Vice Premier Shimon Peres took a swipe at Shamir's approach. "There was a time when we could have started from the Jordanian end," said the Labor Party leader. "Now we have to start from the Palestinian end."

Toward that end, Peres suggested Palestinian self-rule in the "densely populated Arab territories," including the running of their own institutions, "from legislation to health, from education to agriculture."

But Peres also said that existing Jewish settlements would not be dismantled, causing Shamir to raise his eyebrows.

**'Face The Future Together'**

Shamir, who began Tuesday morning's plenary sessions with a 22-minute address, outlined some of the problems facing Israel, including the uprising in the territories, how to approach the peace process and calls for the creation of a Palestinian state run by the PLO.

Such a state, Shamir said, "would not advance peace. It would be the opposite of peace. It could only produce the peace of the cemetery."

But the Likud leader focused mostly on the theme of the conference, which had more to do with image than substance.

"We need the unity and solidarity of all our people," Shamir said, pounding on the podium.

"We need the word to go out from here to the capitals of the world that the Jewish people is not divided, the Jewish people is not weakened, the Jewish people is responding to Israel's call and will face the future together with Israel."

Many of the dozen hand-picked speakers who followed Shamir with short speeches of their own echoed the prime minister's remarks on solidarity with Israel.

The speakers included Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors; Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference Presidents; and Martin Stein, chairman of the United Jewish Appeal board of trustees.

Also Professor Irwin Cotler of McGill University; Mark Leibler, president of the Zionist Federation of Australia; Holocaust survivor and author Samuel Pisas; Rabbi Henry Sobel of Sao Paulo, Brazil; Michael Katz of South Africa; and Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Speaking on the issue of human rights, Cotler said Israel was founded as a symbol of human rights, but is now being perceived as a violator of those rights.

"It behooves Israel to launch a human rights offensive," Cotler said. But at the same time, he said, "any partner seeking standing in the peace process" must first reject the 1975 United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism.

#### 'No One Screamed At Each Other'

The thrust of the conference was to show unity, and signs of it abounded. In a rare display of political unity, Shamir and Peres sat side by side on the podium during most of Monday's morning session and afternoon news conference.

But there also were opportunities to discuss issues of contention.

At a steering committee session on Sunday, French writer Marek Halter, who had met privately with PLO chief Yasir Arafat, asked Foreign Minister Moshe Arens what was wrong with such a meeting.

"Understand from our perspective what recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate spokesman for the Palestinians means," said Arens, according to an eyewitness to the conversation.

"It doesn't only mean the Palestinians on the West Bank. It means the guaranteed demise of (Jordan's King) Hussein. It means the unleashing of 1.4 million Palestinians in the 'diaspora.'"

"No one screamed at each other," the eyewitness said. "That's what made this a legitimate conference. People were able to come here, get access and have an unfiltered response from people actually making the decisions."

All told, there were 1,580 delegates at the conference from 42 countries, including 730 Americans.

#### **KISSINGER URGES INTERIM SELF-RULE, BUT ARAB-AMERICAN REJECTS CONCEPT** By David Friedman and Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 21 (JTA) -- Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is urging the Bush administration to encourage efforts for an interim arrangement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, rather than press for a final settlement leading to a Palestinian state.

But the head of an Arab-American group rejected that concept Tuesday.

Writing in his syndicated column, which appeared in The Washington Post on Tuesday, Kissinger said that an interim arrangement for Palestinian self-rule should be worked out with the inhabitants of the territories, not the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"The dialogue between the United States and the PLO could help provide a framework for such a transition," Kissinger said.

"Any serious diplomatic efforts" must recognize that "conditions for a final settlement simply do not now exist; Israel cannot be asked simultaneously to give up territories and to establish a PLO state," Kissinger said.

He added, "A Palestinian state can emerge only after Israelis and Palestinians have learned to live side by side in dignity." He suggested a period of self-rule of about five years.

Kissinger said such a transitional period "will test whether coexistence between Israel and a Palestinian political unit is in fact possible before a final political settlement is negotiated."

He said such an approach would not totally exclude the PLO since most of those elected would be PLO supporters.

#### Asked To 'Behave' For 5 Years

Speaking at the National Press Club, George Moses, president of the National Association of Arab Americans, said Tuesday that Kissinger's proposals for an interim solution would "require that Palestinians take it on faith that if they 'behave' for five years, perhaps the Israelis will grant more autonomy."

He called the proposal "ridiculous" and said it would be "rejected out of hand."

Moses also criticized Kissinger's inference that the PLO has met "semantic formulas" for a U.S.-PLO dialogue without truly changing its policies.

Kissinger wrote that when he helped draft the U.S. conditions for talking to the PLO, it never occurred to him that "these conditions would one day be met by semantic formulas rather than by an insistence on concrete changes in attitude."

"When Israeli pronouncements are made, they are reliable policy, and when Palestinians speak, it is subterfuge -- they don't mean it," Moses complained.

"Clearly that's not the basis for sound decision-making, yet that has been the attitude of key decision-makers in this government for far too long," he said.

The Arab-American group asked the House Foreign Affairs Committee last week to hold hearings on whether Israeli human rights practices have violated conditions for U.S. foreign assistance.

Moses said he plans to make the same request to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

#### **THREE UNIFIL SOLDIERS KILLED** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 21 (JTA) -- Three soldiers belonging to the Irish contingent of U.N. peace-keeping forces in Lebanon were killed Tuesday, when the light truck in which they were traveling went over a mine.

The incident occurred near the village of Barashit, at the edge of the Israeli-controlled security zone in southern Lebanon.

Two of the Irishmen were killed outright, while the third died shortly afterward in a hospital at U.N. headquarters in Nakoura.

Their deaths brought to 30 the number of Irish soldiers killed since the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon was first deployed in 1978.

## SHAMIR AIDES REFUTE INTELLIGENCE THAT PLO HAS MODERATED ITS STAND

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 21 (JTA) -- Sources close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir have denied that an internal intelligence report leaked to the press either directly or indirectly proposes opening negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Otherwise, Shamir's office refused to react to details of the report, which was presented to Cabinet ministers last week and leaked to Israeli newspapers on Monday.

The report said that the PLO had joined the pragmatic Arab camp that seeks a negotiated solution to the Palestinian problem and that now accepts Israel's right to exist.

According to the leaks, it said there is no alternative to the PLO as a negotiating partner in peace talks and that Israeli inflexibility might erode Israel's ties with the United States.

Aides to Shamir, who is a steadfast opponent of talks with the PLO, said that the annual assessment was leaked "irresponsibly and distastefully," and did not reflect the full scope of the intelligence review submitted to senior Cabinet ministers.

Yet the assessment astonished ministers because of its close conformity with long-held dovish positions, according to one of the ministers who attended the briefing at which the report was presented. He was quoted by the Jerusalem Post on Tuesday.

Vice Premier Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, has been associated with many of those dovish views. The report surfaced on the same day that he told a gathering of Diaspora Jewish leaders that if Likud and Labor could not agree on ways to accelerate the peace process, his party may have to pull out of the Likud-led national unity government.

### A Gathering Momentum

Shamir and his aides appear to be especially angered by the timing of the leak, coming as it did at the opening of the Prime Minister's Conference on Jewish Solidarity With Israel.

Many of the 1,200 worldwide Jewish leaders who gathered in Jerusalem for the conference Monday urged Shamir's government to reconsider its opposition to talks with the PLO.

But Shamir told the 300-member conference steering committee that his government was united in opposition to such talks and to the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

Shamir's office has said it will continue to seek Palestinians not associated with the PLO for negotiating partners.

The prime minister's aides are eager to halt what seems to them a gathering momentum for talks with the PLO. Last week, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told a congressional subcommittee that if advancing the peace process "takes talks with the PLO, we should not rule it out."

Shamir was also angered two weeks ago by a study released by Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

The Jaffee Center study rejected nearly all currently discussed options for peace and recommended replacing the dangerous status quo with a lengthy cooling-off period between Israelis and Palestinians.

It said talks with the PLO, possibly leading to a separate Palestinian state, may be inevitable.

## MAN STABBED TO DEATH, TWO INJURED BY ARAB IN BIZARRE TEL AVIV INCIDENT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 21 (JTA) -- A man was stabbed to death and two other people were wounded in the center of Tel Aviv on Tuesday afternoon by an Arab resident of the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza, who apparently ran amok.

The assailant was shot and wounded by police, who captured him. They were waiting to interrogate him at the government-run Ichilov Hospital, where he and the two wounded victims were receiving medical treatment.

Police said preliminary investigations indicated that the assailant was insane.

But they have not ruled out the possibility that the attack was instigated by a terrorist organization.

According to police and eyewitnesses, the assailant, brandishing a kitchen knife, ran from a side street into the main Yehoshua Bin-Nun Street, near the corner of Arlozorov Street, where he knocked on the door of a small restaurant.

When the owner did not open the door, he continued his rush through the main street and first knifed a man in the back as he was bending to enter his car. The victim was killed on the spot.

The restaurant owner, looking through the window, saw the attack and called the police.

### Shouted 'Allah Akhbar'

The attacker, meanwhile, continued running along the street, stabbing two other passers-by, before rushing up to the roof of a house.

On his way to the roof, the attacker knocked on the door of an apartment. A young girl inside saw through a peephole a man with a knife.

When she did not answer the knock, the assailant rushed up to the roof, where he began throwing down cooking-gas cylinders he found there.

A large force of police anti-terrorist experts was quickly on the spot. They followed the assailant to the roof, where he shouted "Allah akhbar" (God is great) and tried to stab one of the policemen.

The officer shot and wounded him, then took him prisoner.

The attacker and the two wounded bystanders were rushed to Ichilov Hospital. They were reported to have sustained medium injuries.

The names of the dead and injured had not been released by Tuesday evening.

## BOMB EXPLODES IN PETACH TIKVA, BUT NOBODY IS REPORTED INJURED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 21 (JTA) -- Nobody was hurt when an explosive charge went off near Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikva Tuesday morning. The explosion, shortly after 9 a.m., was heard over a wide area.

The explosive device had been placed at the bottom of a trash can near a bus stop, which was empty of passengers at the time because of the Purim holiday.

The explosion caused little damage.

A search of the garbage receptacle by police sappers shortly afterward uncovered another bomb, which had failed to explode.

## ESTHER, RAMBO AND EVEN SNOW MARK PURIM HOLIDAY IN TEL AVIV

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 21 (JTA) -- The streets of Israeli cities were merry today with youthful Queen Esthers, Mordechais, cowboys and Indians, Rambos, and even miniature versions of Alexis and Crystal from television's Dynasty series.

Youngsters paraded in brilliant sunshine and temperatures in the 70s on the first day of spring, which this year coincides with Purim, the traditional day for dressing up as well as reading the Megillah.

Israel Radio's morning report on traffic conditions in the Greater Tel Aviv area, broadcast from a light aircraft circling over the region, reviewed the road conditions in Yiddish -- leading the ground-based anchorman to give a Hebrew translation "for those of our listeners who were not born in Warsaw."

Throughout the day Wednesday, all radio stations devoted their programs to "Purim spiels" and skits on politics and the Israel scene.

Children in Tel Aviv received a rare treat on Monday: snow in the street. But it did not drift down from heaven.

Operators of the Mount Hermon ski center had sent down truckloads of snow and piled it up in Malchei Israel Square, in front of City Hall, for the enjoyment of children who see snow in their city only once in 15 to 20 years.

Schools were closed Tuesday, to enable pupils to recover from late-night parties Monday night and to show off their costumes Wednesday.

But most Israelis could not understand why the banks were closed, also.

Jerusalem was to celebrate Purim on Wednesday. Being a walled city, it traditionally observes the festival a day late, recalling the time it took for news of the deliverance of the Jews from Haman's persecution to reach the walled capital of Shushan.

## FRENCH SYNAGOGUE GUTTED BY FIRE DURING PURIM EVENING SERVICES

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 21 (JTA) -- A brand new synagogue crowded with Purim worshipers was gutted by a violent fire in the town of Yerres, about 40 miles southwest of Paris.

There were no casualties. Police have not yet been able to determine whether the fire was accidental or criminal.

The fire broke out on Monday evening during the Purim service, when about 60 worshipers packed the new synagogue.

The flames came from the old synagogue, adjacent to the new building and now used for administrative purposes.

Rabbi Jacques Hadjaj, who was conducting the service, said neither he nor anyone else had seen or heard anything that might lead them to believe the fire was deliberately set.

The rabbi said the worshipers, who were gathered to hear the reading of the Book of Esther, left quietly and in an ordered manner. Firefighters and police arrived minutes later.

Yerres, a town of some 25,000 inhabitants, has a Socialist mayor. The extreme right-wing National Front did not field any candidates during the recent municipal elections.

Local Jews say the small community has had no trouble in the past.

## WALDHEIM GETS OFFICIAL WELCOME ON VISIT TO UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, March 21 (JTA) -- Austrian President Kurt Waldheim received an official welcome Sunday to the United Arab Emirates, where he is on a four-day state visit.

It is the eighth official visit for Waldheim, who has been ostracized by Western nations because of his wartime service as a Nazi intelligence officer. The invitations have come largely from the Arab world.

According to Austrian newspapers, Waldheim was received by the UAE's head of state and emir of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan.

Waldheim is being accompanied on his visit by Rudolf Streicher, minister for state industries, by a Foreign Office minister and by some 20 top managers of state and private firms who see economic prospects in the area, in the aftermath of the war between Iran and Iraq.

On his return to Austria, Waldheim is to stop in Cyprus, where Austrian soldiers serve in United Nations forces that form a buffer between Greek and Turkish lines.

## HITLER WORSHIPERS SURFACE IN HOLLAND

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, March 21 (JTA) -- A previously unknown group calling itself the Netherlands Graves Foundation has distributed pamphlets calling for a pilgrimage to sites frequented by Adolf Hitler and his deputy, Rudolf Hess, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Hitler's birth, April 20.

The pamphlets call for visits to certain places in Austria and Bavaria, including Braunau, where Hitler was born; Linz, where he grew up; and Wunsiedel, where Hess is buried.

The group said it would also organize a pilgrimage to the village of Blaricum, north of Hilversum in Holland, alleged site of the remains of Anton Mussert, the Dutch Nazi leader.

Investigators into the obscure Nazi-worshipping group have concluded that the main person behind it is Joop Glimmerveen. Some 20 years ago, Glimmerveen headed the "Netherlands Volks," a fascist group that campaigned against the presence of foreigners in Holland. He has not been heard of for many years.

## ANTI-JEWISH PREACHER SENTENCED

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, March 21 (JTA) -- A gospel-preaching woman here has received a two-month suspended sentence and two years' probation for distributing material offensive to Jews.

Jenny Goeree and her estranged husband, Lucas Goeree, stated repeatedly in a paper they printed that "the Jews brought the Holocaust upon themselves for rejecting Jesus as the messiah."

The public prosecutor had demanded four months' probation.

The summons against Lucas Goeree was declared invalid because it was served at an address where he no longer lived, that of his ex-wife. A new summons is supposed to be served against Lucas Goeree.

Jenny Goeree has said that despite the court's sentence, she will continue preaching that Jews deserved the Holocaust.