

**10 YEARS LATER, BEGIN DISAPPOINTED  
WITH PACE OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 26 (JTA) — Ten years after Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty, one of its architects, Menachem Begin, expressed disappointment at the incomplete manner in which relations between the two countries have developed.

Begin, in a radio interview unusual for the reclusive former premier, said there is no cause for real celebration now, despite the exchange of ambassadors and the air and road links between the former enemies.

Begin rejected Egyptian assertions that Israel has not fully implemented the Camp David accords and made no progress in helping to resolve the Palestinian issue.

But Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Israel's first ambassador to Egypt and now a Likud member of the Knesset, said the peace treaty has gone beyond his expectations. He said relations between the two nations are better today than he anticipated when he first took up his post in Cairo.

Then, said Ben-Elissar, he had been concerned that Egypt would not live up to its promise of no more war with Israel.

The 10th anniversary of the signing of the Camp David accords Sunday was celebrated on Israeli radio and television by almost all-day coverage. Israeli newspapers published special supplements to mark the date.

Israel Radio broadcast interviews with leading Egyptians from a studio in Egypt Radio headquarters that were made available by Egyptian broadcasting authorities.

**Huge Gap In Tourism**

But pointing out the discrepancies in relations between the two countries, the Central Bureau of Statistics on Sunday published tourism figures showing that the number of Israelis traveling to Egypt, including Sinai, outnumbered Egyptians visiting Israel by 343,000 to 40,000.

This strengthens Israeli contentions that the two nations have failed to achieve "full normalization."

In a recent New York Times account, it was pointed out, moreover, that Israeli-bound flights leaving Cairo airport are not listed by their destinations on the departure board, and the Israeli Embassy is not listed in the most recent telephone book.

Egyptian authorities told a reporter he could write about an agricultural project provided he would not mention Israeli agricultural advisers there, the Times said.

Boutros Ghali, Egypt's foreign minister, calling the Egypt-Israel peace "cold," told the Times, "We are still at the stage of peacekeeping, not at the stage of peace-building."

One of the treaty's other architects, former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, cannot comment on the status. He was killed by Moslem extremists two years after signing the treaty.

And the American conciliator, former President Jimmy Carter, told The New York Times, "I don't think we took advantage of any opportunities in the last eight years."

**BUSH WILL TRY TO PERSUADE SHAMIR  
U.S.-PLO TALKS ARE WORTHWHILE**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 26 (JTA) — President Bush says he may be ready to propose some specific ideas to advance the Middle East peace process when he meets here next week with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

But he stressed in a newspaper interview that he would not threaten Israel with a loss of financial assistance in order to get Jerusalem to agree to U.S. proposals.

Bush made this assertion during an interview with The Washington Times, published Friday, in which it was suggested that, in the "carrot and stick" approach to diplomacy, he could use the "stick" of a financial-aid cutoff to pressure Israel.

"I don't like to use a stick on friends," Bush said. "And Israel is a friend, and Israel is an ally. They're a strategic ally."

Bush said that relations between the two countries have never been better. "So I don't talk about using some stick -- do it more like Lyndon Johnson -- let's reason together," he said, quoting a favorite phrase of the former president.

The president also said that when he meets with Israeli Shamir on April 6, he will try to convince him that "something good might come out" of the U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

He said he will tell Shamir that the talks with the PLO "are good things, and we'll tell him why I think they're good things," Bush said.

The president said he is following the talks closely, although he would not reveal any details of the latest round in Carthage, Tunisia, last Wednesday between Robert Pelletreau Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Tunis, and PLO representatives.

Bush also said he does not yet know what he will tell Shamir beyond that "we have got to move the peace process forward. We may, by then, be ready with some specific ideas."

**MITTERRAND MAY MEET WITH ARAFAT**

PARIS, March 26 (JTA) — French President Francois Mitterrand may meet with Yasser Arafat next month in Cairo, according to the second highest-ranking official of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In a telephone interview from Tunis, Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, told the Arabic program of Radio France Internationale that there would be a meeting between Mitterrand and the PLO leader "I think next month in Cairo."

"We hope that a meeting in Paris will take place on the first occasion, but the preliminary meeting will be in Cairo," he was quoted as saying.

A spokeswoman for the French president declined to make any comment on the report. "To the best of my knowledge," she said, "nothing has been set."

However, French officials are not ruling out the possibility of such a meeting. Mitterrand himself said in January that he was not opposed to the principle of an encounter with Arafat. "It is just a matter of opportunity," he said.

# IN WEST BANK CHRISTIAN VILLAGE, JEWS PAY A RARE SHABBAT VISIT By Gili Sedan

BEIT SAHUR, West Bank, March 26 (JTA) -- Never before, in the 15-month-long Palestinian uprising, had there been such a sight: a group of religious Jews, gathering for Friday prayers, surrounded by curious Palestinians, in the midst of "intifada-land."

They were not settlers, nor had they lost their way. They came to Beit Sahur, a Christian town adjacent to Bethlehem, in a carefully planned venture to bring Palestinians and Israelis together on a common basis.

"We came as guests, not as occupiers," said Dr. Yaron Ezrahi, a Peace Now activist. "Germans tried to occupy Europe by force, because they had claimed they had no living space."

"Now, they are moving freely across Europe, as a result of peace," he said.

Altogether 70 Israelis, members of 25 families -- men, women and children -- spent a peaceful weekend in one of the hottest trouble spots of the West Bank.

In a clear signal to the authorities that this is the kind of dialogue that interests local residents, not a single public disorder was recorded in Beit Sahur over the weekend.

Beit Sahur is a picturesque town, nestled between the slopes of the Judean Hills and the Judean Desert. Had it not been for the intifada, as Palestinians call their uprising, it could have been a lovely resort town for Jerusalemites seeking a bit of countryside, 20 minutes from home.

## Success After Many Failures

Beit Sahur is one of three Christian towns located to the south of Jerusalem. Until the intifada broke out, the area was the quietest and the safest in the territories, frequently visited by Israelis for shopping, restaurants and leisure.

But for the past 15 months, this has not been the case. This visit was the first attempt to return to the status quo ante.

Both Israelis and Palestinians participating in the venture expressed their desire to change the status quo permanently by creating a Palestinian state that would exist alongside Israel in peace.

The venture was organized by Hillel Baradin, a Jerusalemite of American origin who in recent months has made several attempts to reach a dialogue with Palestinians.

Last year, he captured headlines during his reserve service in Ramallah, when he engaged in a self-appointed peace mission. He almost reached an agreement then with local intifada leaders for a truce during the term of his unit's service in Ramallah.

But local Israeli commanders following his initiative stopped it immediately, and Baradin was sent to a military jail for a few days.

Despite this unpleasant experience, Baradin, 55, continues to seek channels to the local population. After several abortive attempts, this weekend he scored total success: Under the cover of complete secrecy, he reached an agreement with local leaders in Beit Sahur, and 25 homes opened their doors to Israelis.

Paradoxically, just as the Beit Sahur experience was proving a success, leaders of the intifada were taking steps to block a dialogue between Palestinians and the authorities.

"Nationalist figures and institutions" signed a leaflet distributed in the territories during the

weekend that calls for a halt to meetings between Palestinians and Israeli officials.

The call was seen by observers as a sign of concern among the local leadership of the intifada, which supports the Palestine Liberation Organization, that the Israelis might succeed in their attempt to create a political dialogue with local leaders as a substitute for the PLO.

## Contacts Ordered Suspended

This has been the declared purpose of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin's plan for free elections in the territories, which would lead to the election of a new local leadership.

The call in the leaflet reflects a debate going on inside the Palestinian political community since some of its senior leaders, such as Faisal al-Husseini, began engaging in talks with Israelis a few months ago.

Husseini, who spent most of last year in administrative detention for his connections with the PLO, met with Shmuel Goren, coordinator of government affairs in the territories, shortly before his release from prison.

This was followed by a series of encounters between Brig. Gen. Shaike Erez, head of the West Bank civil administration, and local Palestinians.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin also reportedly have engaged in such meetings.

The Palestinian leaflet warns that such meetings were being "exploited by Israeli officials to promote plans to exclude the PLO, under the guise of an alternate leadership."

The leaflet called for the suspension of all "political Israeli-Palestinian meetings, conferences and dialogues," in order to deny Shamir the opportunity to claim there is a substitute leadership to the PLO.

However, the statement did condone public appearances by Palestinians as part of an information campaign and to continue the dialogue with Israeli peace groups.

## The Army Intervenes

Such was the dialogue over the weekend in Beit Sahur. The people who came here represent several Israeli peace groups, predominantly those of "Peace Now."

On Saturday morning, Palestinians and Jews met at the Christian site of the Shepherd's Field on the outskirts of the town. They sat in the local garden and talked politics, with the outlawed Palestinian flag waving over their heads.

"The Palestinian flag does not bother me at all," said Knesset member Ran Cohen of the dovish Citizens Rights Movement. "As far as I am concerned, this is the flag that should be raised here, as long as my flag, the Israeli flag, can be raised on the Israeli side of the border."

Cohen, born in Iraq, recalled how his family had been saved from pogroms in Baghdad in the 1940s by their Arab neighbors.

"It is now up to us Israelis to come help save you Palestinians from the pains of the occupation," he said.

As the visitors were about to meet with Mayor Hanna el-Atrash in the center of town, the army realized that something was going on. Military jeeps appeared, and an army major ordered the region a closed military area, demanding the Jews leave.

But after negotiations between Cohen and the army commander, the visitors were allowed to stay in Beit Sahur until Shabbat had ended.

## GRENAD ATTACK IN GALILEE MAY SIGNAL LAND DAY VIOLENCE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 26 (JTA) -- A grenade attack Saturday night on a police van in Galilee has police concerned that Land Day this year may be violent.

No one was hurt in the attack, the first of its kind ever in Galilee. But police are concerned that rising tension in heavily Arab Galilee could signal real violence on Land Day, a day of nationalist activities by Israeli Arabs.

Land Day will be commemorated Thursday with a general strike by Israel's 700,000 Arab citizens in solidarity with the Palestinians in the administered territories.

The day marks the expropriation of land by Israeli authorities 13 years ago that touched off violent confrontations in Galilee.

The grenade attack took place shortly before midnight, on the road leading from Arraba to Sakhnin, two large Arab villages in Galilee.

Police heard a loud explosion and saw a flash. Large numbers of officers began combing the area in search of the attackers, but only on Sunday morning, when the pin of the grenade was spotted, did police realize that it was a hand-grenade attack.

Police were convinced Sunday that this had been a pre-planned ambush, with the attackers waiting for the police van to pass, missing it miraculously.

Galilee Police Cmdr. Ya'acov Ganot on Sunday summoned the mayors of the three Arab villages in the area and urged them to put an end to the escalating nationalist tension.

In other violence, a resident of Bethlehem was stabbed in the back Sunday during the course of an argument at Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market.

The victim was working there while an argument developed with one of his employers. The 25-year-old man was given first aid, and then sent to a hospital, where his condition was reported as fair.

A firebomb was thrown Sunday at a shop on Socrates Street in Jaffa. The bottle broke into splinters, but did not explode. No one was hurt and no damage was caused.

## ITALY REMEMBERS ARDEATINE MASSACRE

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, March 26 (JTA) -- The chief rabbi of Rome and a Catholic prelate shared the duties of celebrants at an ecumenical memorial service Friday commemorating the 45th anniversary of a massacre in which 325 Romans, most of them Jews or resistance fighters, were killed in reprisal for the partisan attack on a Nazi military police patrol.

Italian Defense Minister Valero Zanone took part in what has now become an annual ceremony recalling the deaths at the Fosse Ardeatine, or Ardeatine Pits. A representative of President Francesco Cossiga laid a wreath at the mausoleum where the martyrs are buried.

Rabbi Elio Toaff and Monsignor Vincenzo Capogni each said prayers for the victims of the massacre, one of the most dramatic and horrifying episode of the Nazi occupation of Italy.

During the massacre, SS Col. Herbert Kappler ordered 10 local people killed for every Nazi killed by a partisan bomb set in central Rome.

## SWEDEN PROSECUTES 'RADIO ISLAM' FOR ANTI-SEMITIC BROADCASTS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 26 (JTA) -- The attorney general of Sweden filed charges last week against an Islamic radio station there for stirring up anti-Semitic feelings in its broadcasts, the World Jewish Congress has reported.

Attorney General Hans Stark filed the charges March 21 against Radio Islam, which is broadcast by a Moslem association in Stockholm. His move followed complaints by a non-denominational Swedish committee against anti-Semitism and by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Stark filed charges against station director Ahmed Rami for making statements "derogatory to Jews." Conviction on the charge carries a maximum sentence of two years.

The Wiesenthal Center reports that Rami was a Moroccan army officer in the 1960s who was involved in a plot against the king and sought asylum in Sweden. The charges were made after a long delay, the Wiesenthal Center reported.

The Swedish Committee Against Anti-Semitism began monitoring Radio Islam's broadcasts in 1987 and complained to authorities.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the Wiesenthal Center's associate dean, wrote to Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson in November 1987 expressing the center's "deep concern over a recent decision in Stockholm of the council of local radio stations to allow 'Radio Islam' to continue broadcasts laden with anti-Semitic invective."

Among the maxims broadcast on the radio programs were that "Jews provoke racism and hatred" and that "Jew-Zionists control the media all over the world."

## Issue Of Free Speech

The Wiesenthal Center joined with Carlsson "in favoring freedom of expression and worship for all," Cooper wrote at the time. But he said "that there is no place in Sweden for the use of Swedish airwaves for anti-Jewish propaganda."

The broadcasts apparently were riding the thin line between the right of free speech and charges against a minority people.

Last fall, the attorney general reopened the investigation when the station broadcast material from the notoriously anti-Semitic "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," as well as material denying the Holocaust occurred. Neo-Nazis were invited guests on the program, according to Cooper.

In December, Cooper received a response to his original letter to Carlsson from the Swedish Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, which said the broadcasts did not break Swedish law.

The letter said the Swedish chancellor of justice had examined Radio Islam's broadcasts and "found that the programs could not be regarded as an incitement to racial hatred in the sense of the case."

But in February, Attorney General Stark presented a Stockholm court with a long list of anti-Semitic statements the station broadcast.

In Washington, Lars Romert, press consul of the Swedish Embassy, said, "Freedom of the press in Sweden is absolute. But it's against the law to discriminate against any ethnic group, any race, any minority group or any religious group."

Cooper said this case will "showcase how there isn't any distinction between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism."

**NEWS ANALYSIS:  
SUPPORTERS AND CRITICS ALIKE  
SHOWED SOLIDARITY IN JERUSALEM**  
By Eli Wohlgelester

JERUSALEM, March 26 (JTA) — It would be easy to take a cynical view of last week's Prime Minister's Conference on Jewish Solidarity With Israel.

And indeed, several Israeli journalists writing about the three-day event did take a negative slant, calling it a failure and a farce that produced little in the way of concrete answers to the myriad problems facing Israel.

But according to many of the primary participants, the conference accomplished exactly what it set out to do.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, is credited with first proposing the conference to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"When Rabbi Hier came up with the idea, he thought it was important to create a media event, to show that we were taking some initiative," said Efraim Zuroff, Israeli representative of the center.

"Instead of responding all the time to 'Arafat did this, and he met with this one and he met with that one — Algiers, Stockholm, Geneva' — the time has come to show that we're not lying down and doing nothing. That there is a Jewish people, and the Jewish people support Israel, and we're here to talk about it, and the people who came here are here to express that support."

"It doesn't mean that everybody necessarily agrees with the present policies," he said.

**'Hesitations About Coming'**

Some leaders of Diaspora Jewry who disagree with government policy stayed away from the conference, afraid it would not be worth their time.

They feared there would be no discussion of policy, no debate over issues and no addressing the problems facing the government of Israel, the people of Israel and the Jews of the Diaspora.

"Many of us had hesitations about coming here, including our own leadership," said Ernest Michel, executive director of the UJA-Federation of New York.

"But it was our feeling that if the prime minister of Israel, prior to going to see the president of the United States, goes and asks the American Jewish community to come here, we owe it to him to be here, no matter what our points of view are."

There was no formal debate over ending the intifada, or negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organization, or defining who is a Jew.

But that was just fine, as far as most participants were concerned. It did not prevent delegates from expressing divergent viewpoints and challenging the speakers on different matters.

Charlotte Jacobson, representing both Hadasah and the Jewish National Fund, asked Vice Premier Peres after his speech whether the unity government "would be prepared to make a list of demands that the PLO would have to follow in order for Israel to include them in a delegation."

Similarly, Dr. Lionel Kopelowitz, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jewry, asked Peres "what criteria the PLO would have to fulfill, and what change of policy would have to take place, which would permit Israel to talk to

the PLO, because ultimately talks are held with your enemies and not with your friends."

Peres responded, "If the PLO is sincerely interested in negotiating, why do they stop the people they claim they represent, the people they claim support them, from coming to negotiate?"

Such exchanges between speaker and delegate were not unusual, despite the format of the conference being designed to minimize dissent.

**'Sharp And Open Debate'**

"I was actually pleasantly surprised by the relative openness of the conference, during the steering committee meetings and in some of the workshops," said Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and a noted critic of Shamir's policies.

"There was sharp and open debate, and it was very well handled," he said.

As for those disappointed that the careful orchestration of the conference's agenda prevented a detailed discussion of government policy, they just came to the wrong place, said one conference participant.

"Anyone who expected an unfolding here of a master plan and a master design, just doesn't know how the process works," said Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation and religious leader of the Park East Synagogue in New York.

Israeli leaders are "not going to spell out a plan in front of a steering committee of 200. It's just not done," he said.

So what was the point of this conference? Perhaps to give liberals and conservatives, hawks and doves, a place to come together and to share ideas.

"You know, it's not so terrible for Marvin Hier and Israel Singer and Burt Levinson and others to sit down and shmooze and talk issues through," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Wiesenthal Center.

Singer is secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress and Burton Levinson is national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Certainly, it was also a media event, designed to show Jew and gentile alike that although it has been a tough year, Jews are still standing together.

**Dissent Vs. Disloyalty**

"I think it means that those who have been betting on a wedge being driven between the Jewish people and the State of Israel are going to be severely disappointed," said Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

In the final analysis, the conference demonstrated that Jews can stand in solidarity and yet not be monolithic, that Jews can support Israel and still have differing points of view. That disagreement is not disaffection, and dissent is not disloyalty.

"I came here," said Schindler, "not to endorse any particular policy, not to write any blank check, but to demonstrate my 'at-oneness' with this land, and its people, and my fellow Jews."

"One of the reasons I came here was precisely because I am a critic, to demonstrate that my criticism involves certain policies, but that my love for Israel transcends policy, and party, and personality, and embraces an entire people. And that was the purpose of this conference."