

**SHAMIR MEETS WITH U.N. CHIEF,
REJECTS ROLE FOR WORLD BODY**
By Andrew Silow Carroll

UNITED NATIONS, April 11 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir shared his ideas for peace Tuesday with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, but declined any United Nations role in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"I don't think we see at this moment any special role for the U.N.," Shamir told reporters here shortly after the 30-minute meeting. "If there is any special role, we will discuss it with the general secretary."

Shamir described his conversation with Perez de Cuellar as "very good and friendly," though he said the two discussed Israel's "current problems with the U.N."

Chief among these is the General Assembly's frequent call for an international peace conference in the Middle East. Shamir said he repeated his opposition to such a conference during the meeting.

If Perez de Cuellar spoke of any other kind of U.N. participation, Shamir did not say.

In meetings with President Bush last week, Shamir shared his plan for holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Palestinian leaders have rejected the idea of elections being held under Israeli supervision, and some, including Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, have suggested that the United Nations monitor the process.

In recent weeks, Israeli sources have indicated that the only U.N. role Jerusalem would consider would be for the world body to serve as "facilitator" once the two sides in the conflict agree to engage in bilateral talks.

Concern For Lebanon Bloodshed

Shamir was also questioned Tuesday about recent clashes between Israeli soldiers and members of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The prime minister acknowledged that "from time to time there are some misunderstandings. But thanks to personal contacts between our commanders of the army and the commanders of UNIFIL on the ground, we seem to always overcome these misunderstandings," he said.

Shamir said Perez de Cuellar did not ask for an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, where Israeli forces have maintained a "security zone" along the border since the end of the war in Lebanon.

But Shamir said he had concerns of his own for Lebanon, currently in the midst of a new cycle of violence in the 14-year-old civil war.

"We see this present tragedy of Lebanon, and Beirut especially, with thousands of shells. And we see people killed and leave their houses and leave the city.

"And there is a general silence all over the world. Nobody moves to do something in order to help these Lebanese people. It is a neighbor people and it is very painful to see," he said.

Shamir said Perez de Cuellar regrets the Lebanese violence, but told him there are "some limitations" to what the United Nations can do in the area.

**U.S. URGES PALESTINIANS
TO RECONSIDER SHAMIR PLAN**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 11 (JTA) -- The Bush administration expressed little concern Tuesday that Palestinians and other Arab leaders appear to have rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It is not unusual in the beginning of a process for different parties to stake out more extreme positions," said department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

The Shamir proposal, made during his meeting with President Bush at the White House last week, would have the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip elect representatives for negotiations with Israel on self-rule in the territories.

Bush endorsed the proposal, which would eventually lead to negotiations on the final status of the territories.

Although the Palestine Liberation Organization has rejected the plan, Tutwiler stressed her remarks were not aimed specifically at the PLO.

"We have said that this is a step-by-step process; you have to crawl before you walk," she said. "Prime Minister Shamir came with an idea that we believe has potential."

Tutwiler said there are a lot of questions to explore about the proposal during the days and weeks ahead. "We are asking all those who are committed to peace to give us a chance to explore and develop these ideas," she said.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:
PALESTINIANS LESS THAN TOTAL
IN REJECTION OF ELECTION PLAN**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 9 (JTA) -- Palestinians have responded to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal for elections in the Israeli-administered territories with deep skepticism, but less than total rejection.

Hanna Siniora, editor of the East Jerusalem daily Al-Fajr, said Sunday that elections in the territories, as proposed by Shamir last week in Washington, would not lead to a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Elections might come later on, when there is a dialogue between the government of Israel and the PLO," said Siniora, who has insisted that only the Palestine Liberation Organization can represent the Palestinians.

Shamir has repeatedly ruled out Israeli talks with the PLO, and Palestinians have refused to accede to his desire to find alternatives to it.

But Israeli policy-makers are saying that Siniora and others who speak similarly are articulating only the opening Palestinian position. Israeli leaders hope the United States will pressure the PLO to soften its stand on the issue.

Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev told the weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday that Palestinians in the territories have every objective reason to end the status quo. Therefore, he suggested, they will come to reason and take the necessary steps that will lead to comprehensive peace.

Israel and the PLO are each caught in a dilemma. Israel wants elections in the territories, to bypass its rejection of the PLO as a possible negotiating partner.

PLO Legitimacy At Stake

However, Israeli leaders are well aware that free elections would give legitimacy to pro-PLO representation.

At the same time, whereas the PLO leadership regards such elections as an Israeli attempt to keep the organization out of the political game, it recognizes that elections could give the organization legitimacy, as it appears certain that PLO supporters would emerge the victors.

Visiting the Congo last weekend, PLO leader Yasir Arafat said he would agree to the elections if the Israel Defense Force withdrew from the territories, and if the elections were held under international supervision.

Arafat's view was echoed by Palestinian Professor Sari Nusseibeh of Bir Zeit University. He said elections would be possible only if part of a bigger scheme, which would include an imminent Israeli withdrawal from the territories and the convening of an international conference.

The East Jerusalem press carried editorials and statements by prominent Palestinians last weekend, all dismissing Shamir's proposals as a ploy aimed at avoiding talks with the PLO and creating an alternative leadership.

Editorials expressed disappointment at the U.S. administration's support for Shamir's proposals.

The Palestinian rejection came before it was even clear to the Israelis themselves what form the elections would take.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Labor has proposed political elections to select negotiators for peace talks with Israel. Justice Minister Dan Meridor of Likud has proposed municipal elections in the territories, thereby excluding the 125,000 Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

Rabin told the Cabinet Sunday that no preparations for the elections will be made before the Cabinet makes up its own mind on the issue.

TWO LEADERS OF THE UPRISING INDICTED FOR ROLE IN INTIFADA By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 11 (JTA) -- Two Jerusalem Arabs were indicted Tuesday for membership in the supreme command of the Palestinian uprising.

The two were indicted at the military court in Lod, as two of their friends remained in detention, awaiting trial on the same charge.

The four were arrested on March 5. They are suspected of having served since Dec. 18, 1988, as the top command of the intifada, as the Palestinians call their uprising.

The defendants brought to trial Tuesday were Adnan Shalalada, charged as the representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the supreme command, and Saman Khuri, charged as representing the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Both groups are factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Membership in the PLO is illegal in Israel and the administered territories.

According to the charge sheet, the two wrote the text of several leaflets distributed by the uprising leadership, distributed \$1.5 million for various activities, supervised the work of 10

subcommittees of the intifada command and initiated violent riots, including rock-throwing and firebomb incidents.

Authorities, meanwhile, are continuing with their effort to engage local Palestinian leaders in a political dialogue, in the hope of creating an alternative leadership to the PLO.

Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, commander of the southern front, which includes the Gaza Strip, and senior officers in the Gaza civil administration, met Tuesday with a number of Palestinians leaders in the Gaza Strip.

Among them were Fayez Abu-Rahme, chairman of the local bar association, and Mansur a-Shawa, chairman of the local charitable association and son of the late Rashad a-Shawa, the former mayor of Gaza.

FIRST FOREST FIRE REPORTED AS AUTHORITIES BRACE FOR ARSON By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, April 11 (JTA) -- Just hours after security authorities launched an operation to battle forest fires expected this summer, the first incident of the season was reported.

In preparation for a repeat of the Palestinian arson that destroyed much of Israel's natural and planted forests last summer, security forces joined together Sunday in initiating "Operation Foxtail."

Police, border police, the IDF and the fire brigade in the North launched the operation after intelligence reports indicated new arson could be expected this summer.

Under the plan, the civil guard will patrol in potential fire areas, border police will lay ambushes in the forests and the air force will provide helicopter assistance in combatting the fires and in chasing the arsonists.

Operation Foxtail had its first test, just a few hours after it was born, when a forest on Mount Gilboa was set ablaze Sunday night. A fire engine stationed on the mountain as part of Operation Foxtail arrived at the scene less than 10 minutes after the fire started and managed to minimize the damage.

Police investigating the blaze have no doubt that it was arson, or "intifire," as The Jerusalem Post dubbed fires linked to the Palestinian intifada.

The vast black patches along the slopes of Gilboa and other mountains of Galilee were among the distinct emblems of the Palestinian uprising last year. More than 400 arson cases were reported, all of them attributed to nationalistic motives. Damage was estimated at over 100 million shekels (\$56 million).

"Last year, it took us over 50 forest fires to realize that we were dealing with a war," a senior officer of the Galilee police force admitted Monday.

"Too late in the season, we started allocating the proper forces to combat it and the thousands of dunams in black were a shameful result of our unsuccessful efforts." A dunam is an Israeli measurement equivalent to approximately a quarter acre.

This year, security authorities are not taking any chances.

"As the intifada continues in the territories, we have no doubt that Arabs from Judea and Samaria and their accomplices in Israel will try to set fires in the forests and fields," the officer said.

JEWISH UNDERGROUND SUSPECTED IN SHOOTING NEAR JAFFA GATE

By Gil Sedan and David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 11 (JTA) -- While the identity of the gunman who killed one Arab and wounded two others near Jaffa Gate Monday night remains a mystery, police are now facing a new danger: A Jewish underground that is no longer a theoretical threat but rather a reality which endangers the delicate balance between Jews and Arabs in the capital.

Police continued their intensive investigation into the case, after local newsmen received anonymous calls from people who identified themselves as members of the Sicarii group and who took responsibility for the attack.

The group is named after Jewish terrorists in the late Second Temple period, so-called from the dagger -- "sica" in Latin -- they carried to murder collaborators with the Romans.

Khaled Shawish of Jerusalem died and three others were wounded, one very gravely, when an unknown gunman opened fire with an Uzi sub-machine gun just before 8 p.m. Monday evening.

The callers said the assault was a reprisal for the stone-throwing attack on Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall last Friday.

Moreover, one Jewish family, apparently suspected of having had ties with Arabs, received threats from callers who identified themselves with both the Sicarii group and Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach movement.

Rifle bullets were left at the entrance to the apartment of the family along with derogatory slogans.

At a Knesset debate Tuesday, Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev said it was too early to tell whether this was indeed a new terrorist group, or whether Monday's attack should be attributed to a single operator. He said all options remained open.

Police commanders sighed with relief Tuesday as the funeral of the Arab who was murdered Monday passed with only minor disturbances. Hundreds of masked Arab youth marched through the Old City toward the al-Aksa mosque, waving outlawed Palestinian flags.

At the end of the funeral, some youths began rioting. One youth was wounded when a policeman fired a rubber bullet at him.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek called on the Israeli media not to exacerbate Arab-Israeli tensions, saying the press ought to report the facts and refrain from offering theories and interpretations likely to stir up national hatreds.

Israel's largest-circulation paper, Yediot Aharonot, reported in its headline Tuesday that the assailant, who fled on foot, had been seen wearing an IDF uniform and a yarmulke.

Yediot and other media reported they had received phone calls during the evening from persons purporting to speak for the Sicarii and claiming responsibility for the shooting.

In recent weeks, the Sicarii have taken responsibility for clumsy arson efforts outside the front doors of the apartments of pollster Mina Zemach, playwright Dan Almagor, Mapam Knesset member Yair Tzaban and journalist Dan Margalit.

The wounded were young men who had been sitting together outside the gate when the hail of bullets caught them unawares.

Jerusalem Police Chief Yosef Yehudai said three of the four youth were known to the police as being involved in drugs, but he said that it might not have had any bearing on the shooting.

JEWISH LEADERS PRESS CLARK ON CANADIAN TALKS WITH PLO

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, April 11 (JTA) -- Canadian Jewish leaders held what was described as a frank meeting last Friday with External Affairs Minister Joe Clark to discuss Canada's new high-level talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Leaders of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Canadian Zionist Federation, B'nai Brith Canada and the Montreal Jewish community met under the umbrella of the Canada-Israel Committee, the sole body authorized to speak and act for Canada's 350,000 Jews on Canadian-Israeli affairs.

The meeting was held in Clark's chambers in the Parliament building in Ottawa. It was prompted by Clark's decision eight days earlier to lift restrictions on high-level Canadian contacts with the PLO, a move that follows the U.S. government's decision in December to start a dialogue with the PLO.

The Canadian move has angered and worried the organized Jewish community here, segments of which have mounted at least two demonstrations against Clark since he announced the decision.

During the discussions, the delegation urged Clark to pursue policies that would demonstrate a genuine commitment to Israel's security and make a positive contribution toward peace in the Middle East.

List Of Demands

The group presented a statement that, among other things, the Canadian government should insist that the PLO and its various factions:

- Renounce all acts of terror.
- Renounce those elements of its covenant that call for the destruction of Israel and repudiate the "strategy of stages," in which a Palestinian state in the West Bank would be used as a launching point aimed at the "liberation" of all of Palestine.
- Work actively to encourage Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq and the other Arab countries to recognize Israel's right to exist in peace and security.
- Support the Israeli government's proposal for elections in the territories in order to prepare the way for a negotiated peace settlement.
- Work more actively at the United Nations and elsewhere to promote the development of a peace process based on direct negotiations without preconditions.

According to Sidney Spivak, who chairs the committee, the meeting was "frank, open and cordial," with Clark reaffirming the government's commitment to Israel's security and to expanding bilateral relations with Israel.

Clark agreed that there should be high-level ongoing dialogue with the Canada-Israel Committee on constructive initiatives that the Canadian government should consider undertaking in these areas and in the promotion of peace in the Middle East.

Present at the meeting were Dorothy Reitman, president of the CJC; David Azrieli, president of the CZF; Frank Dimant, executive vice president of B'nai Brith Canada; and Charles Bronfman, representing the Montreal Jewish community.

Also present was Thomas Hecht, president of the Quebec section of the Canada-Israel Committee; and Spivak, who is an attorney from Winnipeg.

KOHL PRODS AND SUPPORTS ISRAEL IN TALKS WITH KNESSET MEMBERS

By David Kantor

BONN, April 11 (JTA) -- West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl reportedly has told Ezer Weizman that his government is willing to forgive some of the mounting debts on Bonn's yearly loans to Israel.

But the proposed settlement, he told the science and development minister Tuesday evening, could not be introduced before the beginning of 1990.

Weizman and several members of the Knesset are in Bonn for talks with Kohl and other West German officials.

Kohl preceded his meeting with the Israeli politicians by urging both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to seek an "acceptable compromise" before time runs out.

He told participants in the annual conference of the German-Israeli Friendship Association, however, that security for Israel should top the list of priorities in an eventual resolution of the conflict.

And he refrained from mentioning the Palestine Liberation Organization, later saying that European governments had different opinions about what the group's role should be.

The German-Israeli conference began Monday and was to close Wednesday.

Kohl reiterated the dual themes of the need to make progress toward peace and his country's commitment to the security and well-being of Israel during talks with a group of Israeli Knesset members from various parties.

Plans To Meet Arafat Denied

In turn, the Knesset members urged Kohl to pay attention to Israel's needs and the perception in Israel that Western Europe is strongly tilting toward the Arab side in the Middle East conflict.

Meanwhile, Weizman flatly denied reports that he had agreed to, and then backed out of, a meeting with PLO leader Yasir Arafat that was to be mediated by Bruno Kreisky, the former chancellor of Austria.

"This is a lie. This never happened," the science and development minister told reporters. "A week ago I received a letter suggesting such a meeting. I immediately refused. If I wanted to meet Arafat, I don't need Kreisky to attend the meeting," he said.

Weizman is enjoying favorable coverage in the West German news media, who see him as an Israeli leader who is willing to go half-way to meet Palestinian aspirations.

While in Bonn, Weizman also met with his West German counterpart, Heinz Riesenhuber, and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Weizman and Riesenhuber reviewed the activities of a recently established, \$10 million foundation to advance joint research projects.

GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 11 (JTA) -- West German Defense Minister Rupert Scholz, here on a three-day official visit to Israel, says that from his various meetings with officials in the defense field, he has sensed the country's determination to secure peace.

After touring military industry plants Monday, Scholz attended a reception in his honor

given by Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Both Rabin and Scholz praised the special relations between Israel and the Federal Republic of Germany, dating back to the historic meeting between the late David Ben-Gurion and the late German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

Such sensitive issues as German construction of submarines for Israel and West Germany's military aid to Arab states were to be discussed at private meetings between the two defense ministers.

Scholz said in Bonn last Friday that his government is doing everything in its power to prevent German companies from helping Arab nations produce poison gas or develop missiles.

The minister spoke at a meeting with journalists prior to his visit to Israel.

According to Scholz, the government already has toughened its regulations to control unlawful exports. He added that if these proved inefficient, more action would be needed.

This last remark came in the context of revelations in the last week that major German companies were heavily involved in helping Iraq build missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads to targets as far as 620 miles from launch.

Scholz also characterized Israeli development and production of defense-related facilities as having reached a very high level, although he denied that his visit to Israel would include discussion of joint defense projects.

(JTA Bonn correspondent David Kantor contributed to this report.)

12 REFUSENIKS RECEIVE PERMISSION

NEW YORK, April 11 (JTA) -- Twelve refuseniks, many of them denied permission to emigrate for several years because of their alleged knowledge of "state secrets," received permission to leave the Soviet Union late last week, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry announced Tuesday.

They comprise the largest single group to be granted visas at one time since the November 1988 large-scale permissions made as a goodwill gesture prior to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Washington.

The group includes long-term refuseniks, such as Alexander Piatetsky, waiting 15 years, and Mark Berenfeld, 12 years, as well as Vadim Ploskikh, who was refused on secrecy grounds as recently as June 1988 and told that he would have to wait until 1993. Ploskikh's wife and children are already living in Israel.

Other "secrecy" refuseniks to get permission are Mikhail Gurfink, Boris Lifshits, Ilya Pinsker and Georgi Pozoniakov, all of Moscow.

Also, Don Koslenko of Odessa, an eight-year refusenik who received and was then denied permission.

From Leningrad, Inna Gorenshain, a 12-year refusenik; Valery Spitovsky, waiting eight years; and Mikhail Yusim, 11 years.

And from the Ukrainian city of Zaporozhe, World War II decorated veteran Naum Rabinovich, a seven-year refusenik who last year was told he would not be allowed to leave before 1996.

Commented Shoshana Cardin, chairwoman of the National Conference, "Let us hope, as we prepare to celebrate Passover, that, in our recounting of the Exodus, we may be able to include the names of many more Soviet Jews in the list of those granted permission to leave the Soviet Union."