

MUBARAK CONFERRING WITH HUSSEIN IN WAKE OF SHAMIR ELECTION PLAN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 12 (JTA) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak flew to Amman on Wednesday afternoon for brief talks with Jordan's King Hussein in advance of the king's visit to Washington next week.

Mubarak was in Washington last week, followed almost immediately by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Hussein's visit to the White House on April 19 will round off a month in which the Bush administration has focused on moving the stalled Middle East peace process forward.

As a part of that bid, the U.S. president spoke by telephone to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. The White House has declined to divulge the contents of their conversation.

Mubarak has been the least negative of Arab leaders toward the idea of elections in the administered territories, which Shamir proposed last week during his talks with Bush and Secretary of State James Baker.

The administration hopes that Hussein and Fahd, too, will be prepared to consider the idea and not reject it out of hand. This would give Washington clout in its ongoing efforts to persuade the Palestine Liberation Organization to go along with an election scenario under some mutually accepted form of international or third-party supervision.

Vice Premier Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, has said that he would not oppose some such observation. Shamir, who heads the Likud bloc, said in New York on Tuesday that he opposes a U.N. role in the elections.

NEWS ANALYSIS: SHAMIR INSPIRING NEW OPTIMISM AMONG AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, April 12 (JTA) — Compared to a rabble-rousing speech to New York Jewish leaders last week, Yitzhak Shamir's talk Tuesday afternoon to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations was positively mellow.

The change in tone, said Jewish leaders who attended both meetings, is the result of Shamir's success in Washington last week in regaining Israeli momentum in the peace process.

Shamir did speak Tuesday of a "determined threat to push Israel back to the 1967 lines" and his government's opposition to both the creation of a Palestinian state and negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But instead of decrying Arab terrorism at length, Shamir urged Palestinian "neighbors" not to reject his recent offers for "maximum self-rule" and to "turn over a new leaf toward a better future for us and for them."

Gone were ringing statements that rejected trading any more land for peace, replaced with hints of resurrecting the compromises contained in U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

And if Shamir was uncertain last week about the American position, on Tuesday he acknowl-

edged that "we now understand each other considerably better, and there is appreciation of our views on the situation and on what needs to be done."

"I thought he was excellent in terms of projecting his willingness to discuss peace," said Milton Shapiro, president of the Zionist Organization of America.

'More Flexibility' Than Ever

"He showed more flexibility than at any time previously. The new concept of elections, while not totally new, showed a flexibility and an understanding that can bring about negotiations," he said.

In his address, Shamir outlined his plan for Palestinian elections and for talks with elected Palestinian representatives about an "interim stage" of Palestinian self-rule.

After a testing period, he explained, "negotiations will be held between Israel and the Palestinian representatives — together with Jordan and Egypt — to decide on the permanent status of the areas in question."

This plan has gained the clear support of the U.S. government, observed Ira Silverman, executive director of the American Jewish Committee.

"I was fearful, given the advance press skepticism and virtually simultaneous visit of (Egyptian President Hosni) Mubarak, that the Israeli position would be undermined," he said.

But now, Silverman said, he is relieved that the elections proposals were so well accepted.

"Whether that's good enough to break the logjam in the peace process, I couldn't begin to speculate," he added. "Not to take the pressure off the Palestinians, but the Israeli government has to move and continue to come up with creative ideas."

Even a dependable critic of Shamir's policies emerged with a sense of optimism after Tuesday's meeting.

"It is absolutely a different tone, a different approach from his speeches and his attitude during his previous visit last year," said Menachem Rosensaft, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance. "He sounded much more moderate and held open the possibility of an eventual compromise."

Open To Territorial Compromise

Rosensaft pointed to Shamir's favorable mention of discussing Resolutions 242 and 338 during the "second phase" of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. The resolutions call for the return of Arab land in exchange for recognition of Israel.

"That is different from saying Israeli performance under 242 was fulfilled upon the withdrawal from Sinai," said Rosensaft, referring to Shamir's past statements opposing returning portions of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"He left open the possibility of territorial compromise without in any way giving up his position, which is opposition to territorial compromise. But he left it open, and it's now up to the Palestinians and the PLO to take the next step," said Rosensaft.

Goldie Kweller, president of Mercaz, Conser-

vative Judaism's Zionist movement, was heartened by Shamir's proposal for an international conference to solve the Palestinian refugee problem.

Shamir clarified his proposal with a joke that a refugee conference would be different from "this conference that I don't like."

He believes an overall international peace conference would be coercive. Instead, he favors direct bilateral talks.

"I don't believe that an international peace conference at this time will do more than muddy the waters," agreed Kwellner.

"But if they sit down over one of the problems, like the refugees, then there is the opportunity to open other doors. If people speak to each other, there is the chance of coming together."

Most of all, there was praise for Shamir's new willingness to hear other opinions from across the spectrum of American Jewish leadership: Silverman called Shamir "excruciatingly patient" in listening to advice.

Leaders acknowledge that it is more important how Shamir's proposals play in Nablus than in New York. But they say that his visit to the United States has made credible his claims of having achieved American Jewish unity with Israel.

"If Shamir has engaged in a process that is positive and that holds out some hope, everyone who supports Israel should give him their full support," said Rosensaft.

SENATORS URGING U.S. TO THWART U.N. RECOGNITION OF PLO STATE

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, April 12 (JTA) — Secretary of State James Baker was urged by two senators Wednesday to thwart any attempt by the United Nations or its agencies to recognize the Palestinian state declared by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Such a move by the United Nations or its specialized agencies would make a mockery of all the U.N. represents," Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Robert Kasten (R-Wis.) declared in a letter to Baker.

The two senators, who respectively are the chairman and ranking Republican on the Senate Appropriations subcommittee that oversees U.S. funding to the United Nations, were referring to possible recognition of the Palestinian state by the International Telecommunications Union, an aide to Kasten said.

In addition, the World Health Organization will be asked to grant the PLO full voting privileges as a member state at its annual meeting May 8 in Geneva, diplomatic sources in Geneva said recently.

Recognition of the state would add a new obstacle to the peace process because it "prejudges the outcome of the negotiating process," the senators said.

They said it would also weaken U.S. support for the United Nations, forcing Congress to "seriously consider a range of punitive actions, including withholding U.S. financial participation from those agencies."

The PLO's declaration of statehood "contravenes all international standards related to sovereignty," they said.

"The PLO does not control territory, does not control any population and is not a government, all of which are internationally accepted

attributes of a state and of statehood."

The letter is the latest of a flurry of congressional efforts to place conditions on the U.S. dialogue with the PLO.

Helms Bill Gaining Support

Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) introduced a sense-of-the-Senate resolution last Friday that would urge the Bush administration to ask the PLO to explain nine attempts by PLO constituent groups to infiltrate Israel since the start of the U.S.-PLO dialogue last December.

The administration would be requested to seek such information at its first contact with the PLO after approval of the bill. The resolution had 26 co-sponsors as of Wednesday, a Helms aide said.

One incident was staged March 15 near the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. The Islamic Jihad group is believed responsible.

The other eight incidents occurred near the Israeli-Lebanese border. Three were conducted by the Palestine Liberation Front, two by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and one each by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Popular Struggle Front.

The PFLP and the Palestine Liberation Front joined in an infiltration attempt Feb. 5.

The State Department's 1988 "Patterns of Global Terrorism" report, released Tuesday, states that those two groups are among the PLO constituents bound by Yasir Arafat's renunciation of terrorism last December.

The Democratic Front is also a PLO member group, the report says, although it "differs with key elements of Arafat's policies."

Although neither the Popular Struggle Front nor Islamic Jihad is a PLO faction, the Helms aide said news reports indicated the PLO may have been consulted about attacks perpetrated by those groups.

Terrorism Report Released

Another bill, introduced Tuesday by Sens. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) and Connie Mack (R-Fla.), would require the Bush administration to report to Congress every 120 days on PLO compliance with conditions for the U.S.-PLO dialogue. That bill had 16 co-sponsors as of Wednesday afternoon, a Mack aide said.

The three conditions for the dialogue are PLO recognition of Israel's right to exist, renunciation of terrorism and acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

An aide to Rep. Mel Levine (D-Calif.) said the House Wednesday approved two of his amendments to the 1990 State Department Authorization Bill. They would require the administration to report to Congress on involvement in the peace process by both the PLO as well as various Arab states.

The terrorism report found that 250 terrorist incidents occurred in 1988 in Israel and the territories.

A source in the State Department's counter-terrorism office said the overwhelming number occurred in the territories and that some of those were committed by Jews.

The incidents in the territories included "life-threatening violence," such as throwing of Molotov cocktails at unarmed civilians, the source said.

But the State Department did not count throwing of Molotov cocktails at soldiers or rock-throwing at either soldiers or civilians.

GUSH EMUNIM LEADER CHARGED WITH SHOOTING DEATH OF ARAB By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, April 12 (JTA) -- Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a leader of the militant Gush Emunim settlers group, was charged Tuesday with the killing last fall of an Arab resident of Hebron.

Levinger was charged in the Jerusalem district court Wednesday with manslaughter, sabotage and intentionally causing damage to property. If found guilty, he could be sentenced to more than 20 years in prison.

Levinger is the leader of a group of Jews who have settled in the middle of the heavily Arab city of Hebron. The incident in question occurred Sept. 30, as Levinger and his family were driving through Hebron on their way to Jerusalem.

As the car entered the center of town, a rock was thrown at the vehicle, smashing its windshield. The driver, Levinger's son, continued driving until they reached an army checkpoint. There they reported the incident to the soldiers and asked them to call for reinforcements.

While waiting for the reinforcements to arrive, Palestinian youths began stoning the checkpoint. The indictment charges that Levinger responded by drawing his Barrett gun and shooting two to three bullets in the air.

After shooting in the air, Levinger allegedly started walking down the street and began shouting toward shops and street stands full of customers.

He hit Kayed Salah, 42, a shoe store owner who at the time of the incident was standing outside his shop showing shoes to a potential customer, Ibrahim Balli, who was also wounded. Salah later died of his wounds.

The indictment, based on testimony taken from 39 eyewitnesses to the incident, also alleges that after shooting Salah and Balli, Levinger overturned street stands, throwing products on the floor, cursing the Arabs and ordering them to close their shops immediately.

POLICE SAY THEY'LL ENTER MOSQUES TO PREVENT TEMPLE MOUNT VIOLENCE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 12 (JTA) -- In a warning to Arab demonstrators that violence on the Temple Mount will not be tolerated, Police Inspector General David Kraus said Wednesday that police will not hesitate to enter Moslem shrines to prevent them from serving as arsenals for weapons such as "stones, clubs and bottles."

Kraus said the police were determined to avert a repetition of last Friday's riots on the Temple Mount, which he described as one of the worst since the city was reunited in 1967.

Among the security measures planned to prevent a recurrence of trouble is the barring of "known troublemakers" from entering the Mount for Friday prayers, and a demand that suspect worshippers deposit their IDs at the entrance to the Temple Mount before entering the holy site.

The army is expected to close off roads leading from the West Bank into Jerusalem to limit the Friday prayers to residents of Jerusalem only.

These plans are the initial result of the recent violence. Both Jewish and Arab worshippers were hurt in the clashes Friday, which began when worshippers first attacked the local police

post with stones and then threw stones down on Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall.

In an apparent reprisal, an unidentified gunman killed one Arab near the Jaffa Gate entrance to the Old City on Monday night. This murder ignited another round of violent protests, bringing tensions in the city between Jews and Arabs to a new high.

Unrest has continued in Jerusalem throughout the week: Some 20 Arab youths stoned an Israeli bank branch in East Jerusalem on Wednesday and 10 youths were arrested as suspects. Most shops in East Jerusalem observed the second day of a three-day strike called to protest the Jaffa Gate murder.

SHAMIR AIDE INDICTED FOR BRIBERY By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 12 (JTA) -- A close political associate of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has been indicted for soliciting and accepting bribes on behalf of the Likud party during the 1984 election campaign.

Michael Dekel, 70, was a Likud Knesset member and deputy minister of defense at the time. Today, he is an adviser to Shamir on settlement policy in the administered territories.

The indictment, presented to a Tel Aviv court this week, alleges that Dekel persuaded land dealers to give donations amounting to as much as \$185,000 to Likud party funds.

In return, the charge sheet alleges, contributors were to receive preferential treatment in dealings with the government.

Israel's Itim news agency reported that Shamir participated in solicitation of the funds. But the prime minister has not been implicated in the scam.

There is also no suggestion that Dekel pocketed any of the money himself.

He could face a prison sentence of up to 10 years.

TWO TO SHARE PIANO PRIZE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 12 (JTA) -- Two British pianists will share the first prize in the sixth Arthur Rubinstein international piano masters competition, and the third prize is going to a pianist from Poland.

The 43 original competitors were whittled down to six, and then to three, during various stages of elimination in the 14-day competition, which ended on a note of suspense Tuesday night.

The first-prize winner was to be announced at the end of an Israel Philharmonic Orchestra concert Tuesday night at which the three finalists each played a piano concerto.

But the international panel of judges had great difficulty in reaching a final decision, apparently because they found the quality of this year's competitors to be extremely high.

It took the judges more than an hour to reach their decision, announced to an impatient audience well after midnight.

The winners, Benjamin Frith, 31, and Inn Fountain, 19, will share the \$10,000 first prize. Krzysztof Jablonski, 24, of Poland came in third.

Israel's Rina Dokshitsky, 23, placed fourth and received a special \$5,000 prize as the outstanding Israeli performer. She also will get a scholarship to continue her studies in the United States.

TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSES 'GREAT HOPE' FOR ETHIOPIAN JEWS

WASHINGTON, April 12 (JTA) -- A member of Congress just back from Ethiopia told Reform Jewish leaders he has "great hope" for early progress in the effort to help the remaining 15,000 to 17,000 Jews of Ethiopia immigrate to Israel.

Rep. Mickey Leland (D-Texas) delivered his remarks Tuesday while accepting the first Kovler Award for Black-Jewish Relations from the Washington-based Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

The award was presented by Albert Vorspan, senior vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

"There could be good news soon," Leland said, citing his talks last week with President Mengistu Mariam of Ethiopia and other high government officials.

"I believe, too, that Ethiopia is looking more favorably on the prospect of restoring diplomatic relations with Israel, and that Ghana and Nigeria are also looking for ways to develop better relations with Israel," Leland said. "And I am optimistic about the fate of the 54 Ethiopian Jews stranded in the Sudan."

"Good things are happening in terms of African-Israeli relations," the Texas Democrat and former chairman of the Black Congressional Caucus said, "and we are partners in the work."

Leland spoke to some 500 Reform Jewish leaders from all over the country who were taking part in a "Consultation on Conscience" under the auspices of the Religious Action Center.

He was greeted by one of his constituents, Dolores Wilkenfeld of Houston, president of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods. Nearly 100 NFTS members attended the three-day meeting, which ended Wednesday.

The consultation is an annual event sponsored by the center "to motivate ethical concern and religious action on current social issues and to apply the moral and ethical insights of Judaism to these issues," according to Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the center.

In presenting the award, Vorspan cited Leland's work on behalf of Ethiopian Jews and South African blacks: "You have helped unite the black and Jewish communities in a shared vision of universal justice, human rights, equality and freedom," he said.

SAMOILOVICH, IN LONDON FOR TESTS, GIVEN OK FROM OVIR TO EMIGRATE

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, April 12 (JTA) -- Georgi Samoilovich, who arrived in London on Sunday for medical treatment at the Royal Marsden Hospital, won't have to return to the Soviet Union after his cancer treatment is completed.

Samoilovich was told April 3 by OVIR, the Soviet emigration office, that not only would he be allowed to go to London for treatment but that he and his family can emigrate. His wife, Vera, and his son, Viktor, are expected to join him here later.

Eventually, the Samoilovich family hopes to immigrate to the United States.

Last August, it was discovered that Samoilovich was suffering from lymphoma, a tumor of the lymphoid tissue. He had chemotherapy in Moscow at the Oncological Center, but demanded to be

allowed to go to Britain for more treatment.

The Soviet authorities objected to issuing him an exit permit on the grounds that from 1952 till 1972 he had worked at the research center of the Soviet Ministry of Defense and "was involved in developing and testing military equipment which still constitutes a state secret."

JERUSALEM POST EDITORS FRET OVER IMPENDING SALE OF PAPER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 12 (JTA) -- An impending sale of shares in the Jerusalem Post has editors worried that potential buyers, including British publishing magnate Robert Maxwell, "might prejudice the independence and character of the newspaper."

The editors' concern comes as the majority shareholder in the Post, Israeli Investors Corporation, a holding company of the Histadrut's giant Koor Industries conglomerate, has announced its decision to sell its stake in the paper.

Maxwell, who recently purchased 30 percent of the shares of the afternoon Hebrew-language daily Ma'ariv, has made no secret of his interest in the 57-year-old Post, which was founded in pre-state Palestine.

A Czechoslovak-born Jew and the chairman of Maxwell Communications Corp., Maxwell was outspokenly critical of recent coverage in Ma'ariv and the Post of a secret intelligence report that contradicted many of the prime minister's positions.

He called the report, which said Israeli intelligence had told the Cabinet it would have to speak to the Palestine Liberation Organization in order to end the uprising, "a bunch of rubbish."

Israeli journalists were upset over the remark, which they viewed as interference with an editorially independent press.

In a front-page "Statement To Our Readers" that does not mention Maxwell or other investors by name, Post editors wrote Wednesday that they are "intent on safeguarding the editorial independence and journalistic integrity of the newspaper."

As a result, they have informed Israeli Investors Corporation that "they cannot remain indifferent to a change in ownership" and "regard as inimical bids by individuals or groups which might prejudice the independence or character of the newspaper."

"The editors are seeking to ensure that ownership will be directed to hands compatible with the independence, character and Zionist purpose that have distinguished this newspaper for 57 years."

"This position of the editors has been endorsed by the editorial staff."

The financially troubled Koor, in the midst of a retrenchment and recovery program, could use the kind of cash that Maxwell seems willing to spend in Israel.

On Tuesday, Maxwell paid \$30 million for an 18 percent stake in another former Koor holding, Teva Pharmaceuticals Ltd., one of Israel's largest and most profitable industrial corporations.

Maxwell's Bishopsgate investment company pre-empted the Canadian Claridge group, headed by Charles Bronfman, in a race to buy the Teva shares.

The shares were held by Bank Leumi and Bank Hapoalim, which had bought them from Koor last year.