

# **ARAFAT VISIT SET FOR NEXT WEEK, MUCH TO SHAMIR'S DISAPPOINTMENT** By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 23 (JTA) -- Yasir Arafat will come to France during the first week of May to meet with French President Francois Mitterrand, according to Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

It will be the Palestine Liberation Organization leader's first official visit to a major Western country. Diplomatic circles here believe it will serve to strengthen PLO ties with Western countries.

In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir spoke out bitterly Sunday against the impending Mitterrand-Arafat meeting.

"Mr. Mitterrand portrays himself as a friend of Israel," Shamir said in remarks to reporters. "But this meeting entirely contradicts any spirit of friendship between us."

"I regard it with the utmost gravity," he added.

Dumas, in a radio interview Saturday night, said Mitterrand has not deviated from the stance he explained to the Israeli Knesset during his trip to Israel in 1982 -- namely, "full backing for Israel's security but also recognition of Palestinian legitimate rights."

The minister said that after Arafat's declaration in Geneva last December recognizing Israel and renouncing terrorism, there was no reason to further delay such a meeting.

Dumas confirmed that the visit is "official," as Arafat will be arriving in France at the president's invitation.

*(JTA correspondent David Landau in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)*

## **NEWS ANALYSIS: HUSSEIN'S U.S. VISIT YIELDS NO MAJOR BREAKTHROUGHS** By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 23 (JTA) -- King Hussein's tepid reaction to the Israeli proposal for Palestinian elections in the administered territories appears to have dashed hopes of an imminent breakthrough in the Middle East peace process.

The outcome of the Jordanian monarch's visit here last week also appears to confirm that the Bush administration will stick to its policy of moving step by step to bring about direct Arab-Israeli negotiations, rather than proposing a bold new peace initiative.

The only tangible product of the Bush administration's round of meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Hussein is the Shamir plan.

It calls for Palestinians to elect representatives who would negotiate with Israel the arrangements for an interim period of Palestinian self-rule in the territories. After a period of several years, separate negotiations would be called to determine the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

President Bush apparently tried to convince Hussein of the merits of the Shamir plan, which the American leader has endorsed.

"I reiterated my belief that properly designed and mutually acceptable elections could, as

an initial step, contribute to a process leading to negotiations on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza," Bush said in the White House Rose Garden last Wednesday, after his 70-minute meeting with Hussein.

Hussein, in his statement after the meeting, did not mention the elections. But administration officials saw an agreement to at least not reject the idea when Hussein told the president during the Rose Garden ceremony, "I can assure you that I fully support you and all your efforts" in "bringing the conflict to a just and durable conclusion."

### **'May Be Worth Looking At'**

The Jordanian leader went a step further Thursday, after meeting with Secretary of State James Baker.

"The idea of elections might be worth looking at within the context of a whole process that hopefully will come together to get us from where we are now to a final settlement," Hussein told reporters at the State Department.

But he added, "Otherwise the idea is out of context."

Administration sources have stressed that Hussein, Mubarak and other Arab leaders have been asked to keep an open mind until Israel devises a plan for holding the elections.

Shamir has made clear that the elections would be held under Israeli auspices and has rejected Mubarak's proposal that they be supervised by the United Nations.

The Palestine Liberation Organization, on the other hand, would agree to a U.N.-supervised election, but not an election "under the occupiers," PLO leader Yasir Arafat said in a television interview broadcast Thursday.

Speaking on the Public Broadcasting Service's "MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour," Arafat said the PLO would only agree to elections as a "package deal" that contained a timetable for Israeli withdrawal.

Arafat, who was interviewed in Tunis on April 18, also said that the referendum should not elect negotiators, but the leaders of a Palestinian state to be established in the territories.

During a brief meeting with reporters Thursday, Bush said he was "very pleased" by his talks with the three Middle East leaders.

"Things are moving," he said. "Now we've got to assess where we go, what the next step is."

### **Arafat Would Meet Only With Baker**

Hussein, in his White House remarks, indicated that the next step is for Israel to negotiate with the PLO. "Peace can neither be negotiated nor achieved without PLO participation," he said.

The king said the U.S. decision to hold talks with the PLO has "improved the prospects for peace," as has Arafat's announcement last December accepting Israel's right to exist and renouncing terrorism.

Arafat, in his television interview, said the PLO discussions with the United States are being held "in a very positive atmosphere."

But he said he would not personally meet with Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador in Tunisia, who is the only American official author-

ized to talk with the PLO. He said he would only meet with Secretary of State Baker.

Arafat maintained that by talking with the United States, the PLO is indirectly negotiating with Israel, something which Shamir has vehemently denied.

He said this occurred before, in 1981 and in 1982, before and after Israel's invasion of Lebanon, when the PLO met with Philip Habib, then the U.S. special envoy to the Middle East.

But Arafat said he was ready to meet with Shamir, whom he repeatedly referred to as "Mr. No."

"With whom am I to make peace?" Arafat asked. "Peace has to be between enemies."

While Arafat appears to have accepted Shamir's insistence on direct negotiations, Hussein again called last week for an international peace conference, which he first proposed during his visit to the White House in the spring of 1987.

"I believe the bases for peace are already established," the king said in his White House remarks. "What is required is to implement them."

"The forum for a negotiated comprehensive settlement is a peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations," he said.

#### U.S. Opposes Conference Now

The Jordanian leader added that "any steps taken should lead to such a conference, if our efforts to arrive at a comprehensive settlement are not to be diverted."

As he did after his meeting with Mubarak, Bush indicated that the United States was open to such a conference, but not at this time.

"A properly structured international conference could serve, at the appropriate time, as a means to facilitate direct negotiations between the parties," the president said.

Both Bush and Hussein reaffirmed that negotiations must be based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. "Through these negotiations, peace and security for Israel and all states and legitimate Palestinian political rights can be realized," Bush said.

The president again stressed that "the time has come to encourage fresh thinking, to avoid sterile debate and to focus on the difficult but critical work of structuring a serious negotiating process."

#### **SHAMIR TO DISCUSS PEACE PLAN WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY LEADERS** By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, April 23 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is expected to meet three European Community foreign ministers late next month in Madrid to discuss ways to advance the Middle East peace process, according to diplomatic sources here.

Shamir's prospective encounter with the foreign ministers of Spain, Greece and France will give the European Community an opportunity to revive the diplomatic initiative in the Middle East it launched earlier this year.

The so-called troika of current, past and future European Community chairmen visited major Middle East capitals in January and met in February with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

But the European Community has taken no new actions since the Bush administration held a round of meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

and Jordan's King Hussein.

According to diplomatic sources, Shamir is eager to present the European Community with his recently outlined proposals for Palestinian elections in the administered territories.

"Israel hopes that the European Community will agree, or at least remain neutral, with the American administration's view that the elections idea is a first step toward an overall agreement, despite the fact that the Palestine Liberation Organization has already rejected Shamir's offer," an analyst said.

Italian sources hinted last week, following an informal meeting of the 12 E.C. foreign ministers in Granada, Spain, that the community might propose that the United Nations form a special force, made up of European troops, to supervise elections in the territories or a partial Israeli withdrawal from those areas.

Such a proposal would require approval from the E.C. heads of government, who will join in Madrid in June for their semiannual summit meeting.

The sources also did not rule out the possibility of a meeting between Arafat and the European Community "at the highest level."

During his visit to Madrid, which is expected to take place on May 23, the Israeli prime minister will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who will be here a day early to attend the annual meeting of the E.C.-Israel Cooperation Council, with the 12 European Community foreign ministers.

#### **SHAMIR WELCOMES ITALIAN LEADERS, BUT IS CAUTIOUS ON EUROPEAN ROLE** By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir gave a sunny welcome Sunday to Italian Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita, who flew in with Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti for an official visit.

"Your advent here during the Passover holiday symbolizes the spirit of pilgrimage," Shamir told his guests at a colorful welcoming ceremony at the Rose Gardens, opposite the government office complex in West Jerusalem.

Jerusalemites and visitors picnicking in the gardens gave the Italian guests a vigorous round of applause as a smartly dressed honor guard of the Military Police presented its colors and the Israel Defense Force band played in the warm spring sunshine.

De Mita, in his arrival statement, said that the international climate of East-West rapprochement, plus "moderation on the part of various parties in the region," made this time especially propitious for energetic peace diplomacy.

In the afternoon, the two premiers and their aides met to review Shamir's proposal for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This is Shamir's first opportunity to present his proposal to a key European figure since his talks in Washington earlier this month.

But Israeli officials made it clear before the talks began that Shamir does not see a specific role for Italy or the European Community as a whole at this stage.

Shamir himself, in interviews to Italian news media, said, "I am not asking Europe to mediate or to give guarantees, but for its political support." He added, "If Europe were able to persuade the Arab world to accept my proposals, it would be a great step forward."

**ARAFAT AIDE MEETS BELGIANS,  
BRANDS SHAMIR 'REJECTIONIST'**  
By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, April 23 (JTA) -- One of Yasir Arafat's closest aides within the Palestine Liberation Organization, Bassam Abu Sharif, met here Friday with senior Belgian Foreign Ministry officials, informed sources said.

It was the first such meeting since the PLO launched its diplomatic initiative last November.

Abu Sharif was in Brussels to address a seminar on the prospects for peace in the Middle East, along with David Susskind, a leader of the Belgian Jewish community who is active in trying to further Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Arafat's aide, who is considered the architect of the PLO's new moderate diplomatic strategy, met with the political director general of the Belgian Foreign Ministry and Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans' chief of staff.

Abu Sharif, a member of the Palestine National Council, also met with a senior official of the European Executive Commission.

At the seminar, organized by the Center for European Policy Studies and attended mainly by diplomats, Abu Sharif called on world Jewry to convince Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that "his rejectionist attitude is destructive not only for the Palestinians but also for the Israelis."

"The message we want to pass on is that an independent state of Palestine will be the factor of stability in the Middle East and a factor of security for Israel, if not the sole one," he said.

Answering a remark by Susskind over renewed attempts by Palestinian commandos to attack Israel from southern Lebanon, Abu Sharif stressed that the PLO cannot ask the Palestinians to stop their "self-defense" in southern Lebanon while at the same time "Israel is daily raiding by sea and air the Palestinian camps there."

"However, we are in favor of a cease-fire agreement in the area, so that some actions could not be used as a justification for reactions," he added.

Asked about the Shamir proposal to hold elections in the administered territories, Abu Sharif called them "old ideas to solve a problem which is very dynamic."

"The Palestinian people wants self-determination, independence and not autonomy," he added, a reference to Shamir's call to provide limited autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

**U.N. BODY HOPING TO PREVENT  
U.S. PENALTY FOR PLO MOVE**  
By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, April 23 (JTA) -- The director general of the World Health Organization said Sunday he had just conferred with the American delegation to the United Nations here regarding a U.S. warning that it will cut its allocation to the U.N. body if a bid to seat Palestine as a member state is accepted.

Hiroshi Nakajima spoke to the Americans after meeting Saturday with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

Nakajima said he would try to meet with Secretary of State James Baker, and even possibly with President Bush, before gaveling the World Health Assembly to order on May 8.

The United States contributes 25 percent of

WHO's annual budget. Nakajima said he knows that if the PLO is accepted as a full member, the United States will cut its contribution, necessitating major cuts in the U.N. body's activities.

Arafat, writing as the "president of the State of Palestine," sent Nakajima a letter stating that "Palestine" would ask to be seated as a sovereign state when the U.N. organization convenes its annual assembly here.

On Saturday, Arafat said the PLO's bid to gain membership in WHO will not interfere with Israel's membership in that body.

Arafat made clear that he had no intention of moving against Israel as a member of WHO or other U.N. organizations, wishing "Palestine" to participate with all members, including Israel.

The PLO's bid for Palestine to be seated as a member state will be the first topic on the agenda of the assembly's opening session.

Nakajima has told the Israeli ambassador to the U.N. European headquarters, Pinchas Eliav, that despite Israeli objections over the move, he has no power to oppose the bid, which U.S. officials believe will succeed.

Israel is contesting the proposed move on the basis that there are no fixed borders to the so-called state of Palestine.

Nakajima said five countries, including Israel and the United States, had made known their opposition to the Palestine bid. However, he would not identify the other three countries.

He said, though, that reactions to the upcoming move were varied, ranging from concern to preoccupation.

Arafat, who talked with Nakajima about the delay in setting up a Middle East peace conference, reiterated his willingness to participate in other international forums on the subject and to work with other countries, including Israel, "to further the humanitarian work of WHO as a means of achieving peace in the Middle East."

**CAMERAMAN'S PRESS CREDENTIALS  
SUSPENDED FOR SLANDERING TROOPS**  
By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA) -- The director of the Government Press Office on Saturday temporarily suspended the press credentials of Shlomo Mor, an Israeli citizen working as a cameraman for the television news service Visnews.

Yoram Ettinger took the step after Mor allegedly slandered border police troops by accusing them of smashing his car while he covered an incident in Ramallah earlier this month.

Visnews immediately announced that Mor is not employed by the agency, but works on a freelance basis only three or four times a month.

Ettinger explained his decision to temporarily suspend the photographer's credentials by saying that Mor's actions were at odds with the behavior of a responsible journalist.

The incident occurred on April 1, when Mor left his car in a Ramallah alley while covering a demonstration in the Kadura refugee camp. Upon returning to the car, he found it vandalized, and accused a group of border police officers standing nearby of causing the damage.

Mor's allegations were published in the Hebrew daily Ma'ariv, together with a denial by the Israel Defense Force spokesman.

Ma'ariv quoted Mor as saying the marks on the car had been made by the troops' boots. Mor later claimed he was misquoted.

## HITLER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY PASSES QUIETLY IN AUSTRIA

By Reinhard Engel

BRAUNAU, Austria, April 23 (JTA) -- "I hope the day will go by peacefully," Gerhard Skiba, the mayor of this town where Adolf Hitler was born, said with more than a touch of anxiety last week.

He was worried that neo-Nazis from around the world would gather here Thursday to commemorate the 100th birthday of the Nazi leader.

But although Skiba received death threats and was called a "Jewish pig" in anonymous telephone calls, Braunau escaped the clashes that had been anticipated between neo-Nazis and anti-fascist demonstrators.

Rome, however, was not as lucky as this Austrian town.

There, on two consecutive days, unknown parties draped huge banners in the center of the city honoring the Nazi leader.

On Thursday, the actual 100th anniversary of Hitler's birth, police removed an 11-foot-long banner reading "Heil Hitler" from one of Rome's main thoroughfares. Pro-Nazi graffiti was smeared on some walls.

On Friday, Italian police were called in once again to remove from the Ponte Flaminio, one of the city's main bridges, a 13-foot-long banner that read "Honor to the Fuhrer." It was adorned with a big swastika and the dates of Hitler's birth and death.

### Violence Had Been Feared

Here in Braunau, April 20 passed better than had been expected.

The local newspaper Rundschau had summed up the situation preceding the anniversary with the headline "Braunauers live in fear." Shop owners who could not put their faith in the 250 assembled police officers had sealed their windows with wooden boards, in anticipation of violence.

But the day passed relatively quietly. Few devotees of the former fuhrer came to Braunau after all.

Tight controls at the nearby border with West Germany had prevented some from even entering Austria. Only small groups of young men with short haircuts hinting at their political ideology strolled across the town square.

Few aging followers of Hitler who could really remember him even had the chance to catch a glimpse of the house in which their idol was born, barricaded as it was by a police cordon.

Still, a few neo-Nazis raised their hands in the Nazi salute. They were immediately arrested for that display.

Most of them were soon released and forced to leave the country. Among the 30 arrested, only two were Austrians.

Throughout Austria, in fact, the day passed almost unnoticed. Only a few papers ran stories on Hitler's life, not one of them with anything vaguely positive to say about him. There was no noticeable increase in neo-Nazi activity.

In Braunau, Mayor Skiba had argued in vain two weeks ago in favor of placing a simple plaque on the infamous house. Its current owners, however, persistently refused, saying their house might be damaged by Nazis.

In the end, courage and decency won the day. The newly installed Socialists dared to erect a memorial, right in front of Hitler's birthplace, on public ground.

It is a huge granite block from the quarry of the former Mauthausen concentration camp, inscribed with the words: "For peace, freedom and democracy. Never again fascism."

(JTA correspondent Ruth E. Gruber in Rome contributed to this report.)

## 12,000 REFUGEES FROM BEIRUT HAVE POURED INTO SECURITY ZONE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 23 (JTA) -- Since the outbreak of the latest round of fighting in Beirut, Israel has permitted some 12,000 refugees from Beirut and the surrounding area to enter the border security zone in southern Lebanon.

Most of the refugees are Shiites, many of them elderly men, women and children. They have mainly gone to live with relatives in towns and villages in the southern part of the country.

The only limitation on their entry is that they may not bring vehicles into the security zone.

Thousands of other Shiite refugees are gathering in Tyre and Sidon, cities on the coast of southern Lebanon, but north of the security zone.

For Christian refugees from West Beirut, there is no overland passage to southern Lebanon and the only possibility for them to leave is by sea. For this reason many of the refugees of the past month have preferred to sail to Cyprus and then on to other locales.

Ha'aretz reported that during the first two days of last week, Lebanese merchants had doubled their purchases of foodstuffs in northern Galilee in order to convey them to southern Lebanon, where there is a severe shortage of these products.

They transfer their produce, especially bread, to areas outside the security zone as well.

The paper said that 70,000 refugees have arrived in the area in Lebanon controlled by United Nations peacekeeping forces, and 12,000 have come to the security zone.

## 200 COWS SENT TO REDDER PASTURES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 23 (JTA) -- Israel sent 200 select calves to Bulgaria last week, in order to help beef up the quality of that Eastern European country's herd of dairy cattle.

The export of calves is the product of an agreement between the veterinary services of Israel and Bulgaria, struck after Bulgarian specialists decided that Israeli milk cows were superior both in production and resistance to disease.

## 20,000 DRUG ADDICTS IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 23 (JTA) -- About 200,000 persons use drugs in Israel, 20,000 of whom are addicted to hard drugs.

Those findings were reported by Chaya Heichal, national inspector of the Authority for the Fight Against Drugs in the Prime Minister's Office, at a study day on drug addiction conducted this month at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Since 1982, cocaine use has increased to a current annual amount of 15 tons, 10 percent of which the police succeeds in seizing, Dr. Asher PUNCH of Bar Ilan University said at the forum.