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# **BAKER SAYS ISRAELIS AND ARABS MUST ABANDON UNREALISTIC DREAMS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 22 (JTA) -- Secretary of State James Baker urged Israelis on Monday to abandon the "unrealistic vision of a Greater Israel," while calling on the Palestinians to end their hopes of destroying the Jewish state.

It is "high time for serious political dialogue between Israeli officials and Palestinians in the territories," Baker said in a hard-hitting speech to the 30th annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

The speech was his first major policy address to an American Jewish group since becoming secretary of state.

"Both sides must build political constituencies for peace," Baker said. "Each idea, proposal or detail, should be developed as a deal-maker, not a deal-breaker."

Baker reiterated the Bush administration position that now is not the time to seek a comprehensive settlement. Instead, he advocated working for a transitional stage of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

To achieve this, the United States believes Israel's plan for elections in the territories "is an important and positive start down the road toward constructing workable negotiations," Baker said.

He said that a workable process for the elections still needs to be found. While not proposing any details, he said the elections should be "free of interference from any quarter," and participation in them "should be as open as possible."

He also said the elections should allow open access to the media and international observers.

## **'Stop Settlement Activity'**

But the secretary cautioned that even reaching a first step in negotiations will be difficult. "For many Israelis, it will not be easy to enter a negotiating process whose successful outcome will, in all probability, involve territorial withdrawal and the emergence of a new political reality," he said.

But he said that "now is the time to lay aside, once and for all, the unrealistic vision of a Greater Israel. Israeli interests in the West Bank and Gaza -- security and otherwise -- can be accommodated in a settlement" based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, he said.

"Forswear annexation. Stop settlement activity. Allow schools to reopen. Reach out to the Palestinians as neighbors who deserve political rights," Baker implored.

For Palestinians, negotiations "will mean an end to the illusion of control over all of Palestine, and it will mean full recognition of Israel as a neighbor and partner in trade and human contact," Baker said.

He urged Palestinians to "speak with one voice for peace. Renounce the policy of phases in all languages, not just those addressed to the West.

"Practice constructive diplomacy, not attempts to distort international organizations, such as the World Health Organization," he said.

The secretary also called on Palestinians to

amend their covenant calling for the destruction of Israel and move toward "a dialogue of politics and diplomacy.

"Violence will not work," he said. "Reach out to Israelis and convince them of your peaceful intentions. You have the most to gain from doing so, and no one else can or will do it for you. And no one is going to 'deliver' Israel for you."

## **Urges End Of Arab Boycott**

Baker also had prescriptions for the Arab states and the Soviet Union. "Let the Arab world take concrete steps toward accommodation with Israel -- not in place of the peace process, but as a catalyst for it," he said.

"End the economic boycott. Stop the challenge to Israel's standing in international organizations. Repudiate the odious lie that Zionism is racism," he advised.

Baker noted that during his recent visit to Moscow, the Soviets agreed that the Israeli plan for elections was worthy of study.

But he said that if the Soviets want to play a constructive role in the Middle East, they must "restore diplomatic ties with Israel" and "help promote a serious peace process, not just empty slogans."

He also urged the Soviets "to behave responsibly when it comes to arms and stop the supply of sophisticated weapons to countries like Libya."

Baker stressed that a "a key condition for progress" in the Middle East is "a productive U.S.-Israeli partnership. And I believe the best way to be productive is through consultation, rather than confrontation."

Baker reiterated the U.S. position that a Middle East settlement can only be reached through direct negotiations. "In advance of direct negotiations, the United States and no other party, inside or outside, can or will dictate an outcome," he said.

"That is why the United States does not support annexation or permanent Israeli control of the West Bank and Gaza, nor do we support the creation of an independent Palestinian state."

Baker was warmly received and was applauded several times by some 2,000 delegates and 400 college students attending the conference.

But some drew a distinction between Baker's even-handed approach and the more pro-Israel stance of his predecessor. As one delegate put it, "He's no George Shultz."

## **RABIN DEFENDS CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS, URGES PALESTINIANS TO JOIN PROCESS**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 22 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday defended Israel's closure of West Bank schools as a way to reduce the possibility of deaths to Palestinian students.

Rabin, responding to a call from Secretary of State James Baker for Israel to reopen schools in the territories, said Israel gave the West Bankers "three chances" before finally closing their schools.

He spoke to reporters after meeting with

Baker at the State Department.

Baker, in a speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's 30th annual policy conference, called on Israel to allow schools in the territories to reopen as part of a list of steps he said Israel could take to improve the climate and enhance the peace process.

But Rabin said, "Once schools are open, the confrontation between kids, schoolboys and girls and the military forces of Israel increase the number of casualties among the youngsters."

"Instead of having school open and many young casualties," Israel decided to "stop the schooling and to save casualties," the defense minister said.

About 200,000 students in Gaza "continue to study," he said. In June, those graduating from high school will be given examinations supervised by Egyptian educators, "the way that it happened in the past," he said.

"Therefore, we are not talking about total closure of the schools," he said.

Gaza schools remain open because Gazans, unlike West Bankers, do "not involve the schools" in the violence, he explained.

#### Some Sense 'Unique Opportunity'

Rabin said he had not seen the text of Baker's speech, but understood that it was "comprehensive" in that it makes "requests from the Palestinians, requests from Israel."

On the Israeli election concept for the territories, Rabin said the focus should not be that "we and the United States will agree about the details of the elections," but on finding a Palestinian negotiating partner who, in principle, accepts the elections idea.

"I believe this is the key question today," Rabin said. "All of the other issues are minor issues vis-a-vis how to begin the process. We learned that once the peace process starts, it has got its own momentum."

Rabin said most of his meeting with Baker was spent discussing how to "bring about the consent of the Palestinians in the territories to join with us in negotiations."

The defense minister seemed hopeful about finding Palestinians willing to join the process, even though he acknowledged that various Palestinian delegations have rejected the latest initiative.

When the Palestinians are in groups, they will not "say everything that they think. But I have sensed that some of them, if not many, realize that it is a unique opportunity," he said.

Before the Baker meeting, Rabin met with Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and with the secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

#### **U.S. IS WAGING AN UPHILL FIGHT AGAINST PLO BID TO JOIN UNESCO**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 22 (JTA) -- The United States is lobbying strenuously to keep the Palestine Liberation Organization out of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

But its position is not quite as strong as it was two weeks ago, when an American threat to withhold its budgetary assessment successfully blocked a PLO bid for full membership in the Geneva-based World Health Organization.

The United States walked out of UNESCO in 1985 to protest its anti-Western, anti-Israel bias and general mismanagement.

It had stopped paying dues even before then.

The U.S. position that it will never rejoin if the PLO is admitted does not therefore carry the same urgency as did the possible loss of the \$73.9 million American contribution to the WHO's fiscal 1990 budget.

Nevertheless, UNESCO's present director general, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, has been striving to secure America's return since he took office two years ago. If he succeeds, Britain and Singapore, which walked out in 1986, may also reconsider.

A senior member of the U.S. Senate, Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), met with Mayor here on Monday. He reportedly told Mayor that the Senate would vote overwhelmingly against an American return to UNESCO if the PLO were admitted.

Moynihan, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, conveyed the same message to the president of UNESCO's executive board, Jose Israel Vargas of Brazil, whom he also met with here.

The executive board will examine the PLO's request for admission on June 19. A favorable recommendation would send the matter to UNESCO's general conference this fall.

Moynihan's discussions with the UNESCO officials were duplicated last week by John Bolton, the U.S. undersecretary of state for international organizations.

Bolton, who directed the fight against the PLO's admission to the WHO, warned that its entry into UNESCO "would put an end to any negotiation aiming at bringing America back."

The PLO's formal application earlier this month to join UNESCO, like its earlier bid for membership in the WHO, was part of a campaign to gain international recognition for the independent "state of Palestine" it proclaimed last year in Algiers.

The PLO's request was backed by seven African and Asian countries, including Egypt.

UNESCO requires a two-thirds majority for membership, unlike the WHO, where a simple majority would have sufficed. Nevertheless, the PLO stands a better chance in Paris than it did in Geneva, veteran diplomatic observers here now say.

They point out that the American threats are not as potent. While UNESCO has much to gain from an American return, it has nothing more to lose if the United States decides to stay out.

Moreover, while the director general of the WHO and his staff were intent on barring the PLO to preserve their organization, the director general of UNESCO is neutral.

Observers say that 30 of the executive board's 51 members openly favor the PLO's admission and that more than a two-thirds majority for the PLO exists in theory at the general conference.

#### **ISRAELI PLACES IN VIOLIN CONTEST**

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, May 22 (JTA) -- A 24-year-old Israeli is among the 12 finalists in the Queen Elisabeth of Belgium violin competition here.

Erez Ofer, was selected among the finalists in this prestigious contest. The final results of the competition will be announced, in the presence of the queen, next Saturday at the Brussels Palace of Fine Arts.

## MORE PALESTINIANS USING FIREARMS AND JEWISH SETTLERS ARE RIOTING

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA) -- Israeli officials are confronting a worsening security situation in the administered territories, with new instances of firearms being used by Palestinians against Israeli soldiers and a Jewish population increasingly bent on reprisals against Arabs.

The Israel Defense Force announced the seizure of a large weapons cache in the Gaza Strip. It included handguns, American-made M-16 rifles, Soviet-made Kalachnikov assault rifles, Israeli-made Uzi submachine guns and Karl Gustav rifles from Sweden.

The arms haul was described as impressive. But it only added to fears that far more deadly arms, many stolen from the IDF, are in the hands of extremists, such as the Moslem fundamentalist Hamas movement, which was the target of mass arrests over the past few days.

Israeli security forces came under fire Monday in Bethlehem and near Moshav Nevatim in the Negev.

There were no casualties. But the incidents were ominous in the wake of last Thursday's gun battle near Beit Ulla village in the West Bank, which left one soldier dead and several seriously wounded.

Unidentified gunmen fired three pistol shots at a police van near Bethlehem's Manger Square. One hit the vehicle. Four suspects were arrested.

In Nevatim, less than eight miles south of Beersheba, an unknown assailant, driving a truck with Israeli license plates, directed automatic weapon fire at three IDF soldiers waiting at a crossroad to hitch a ride.

The soldiers, unarmed, took refuge in a nearby field. The assailant fled.

### Arab Stoned To Death By Jews

Jewish violence against Arabs is also escalating.

An Arab driver from the West Bank village of Dura, near Hebron, was stoned to death Monday by Jews near Ashkelon, on the Israeli coastal road. The victim was not immediately identified.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Jews from the West Bank settlement of Ma'alch Adumim rampaged through the nearby Arab town of Eizariya on two consecutive nights, beginning Sunday.

They were retaliating for the stoning of a Jewish car Sunday night, which sent it downhill out of control, injuring a family of four.

Police rushed to the scene and had to use tear gas to disperse the raging settlers.

President Chaim Herzog urged Jews on Monday to show restraint and not emulate the behavior of Arab extremists.

### IDF CRACKS DOWN ON A MOVEMENT DEDICATED TO DESTROYING ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 22 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force has cracked down on the Moslem fundamentalist organization Hamas, whose declared aim is to destroy Israel.

More than 150 Hamas activists were arrested in the Gaza Strip on Sunday and others have been apprehended in recent days.

They included its leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, and its so-called "foreign minister," Dr. Mahmoud a-Zahar, a senior lecturer at the Islamic

College in Gaza and a former chairman of the Gaza Medical Association.

Also in custody was Bassam Jarar of Ramallah, regarded as the most prominent member of Hamas in the West Bank.

Several of the detainees reportedly have confessed to involvement in political murders of Arabs they suspected of collaboration with Israel.

Considering the extremist, uncompromising and violent nature of the organization, Israelis found it surprising that Zahar was one of more than a dozen Palestinian dignitaries invited to a meeting last week with Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. State Department's policy planning staff.

Hamas, an organization of Shiite Moslem extremists identified with the Moslem Brotherhood, has recently emerged as the second strongest force among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Sheikh Yassin, 51, who is a quadriplegic, allegedly leads the movement from his wheelchair and is also its religious mentor.

Hamas' influence is said to rival that of the largely secular Palestine Liberation Organization and it has been involved directly in some of the most violent incidents of the Palestinian uprising.

It states plainly that it seeks the annihilation of Israel and demands "every inch" of Palestine, which it believes belongs to the Moslem Wakf, the organization in charge of Islamic shrines.

Hamas calls for the liberation of the land by jihad -- holy war -- and has been trying to impose Islamic religious law on residents of the Gaza Strip.

### PLO OFFICIALS URGE PALESTINIANS TO ESCALATE THE 'ARMED STRUGGLE'

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA) -- Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been urged by Salah Khalaf, a top-ranking Palestine Liberation Organization official, to escalate the "armed struggle" against Israel, which the PLO ostensibly renounced last year in Algiers.

The "armed struggle" also was extolled by Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a hard-line faction of the PLO.

Both referred to the gunfight last Thursday near the West Bank village of Beit Ulla that left one Israeli soldier dead and several others severely wounded. Three Palestinians were also killed.

Khalaf, popularly known as Abu Iyad, said, in a statement quoted by the Kuwaiti news agency Monday, that the PLO's decision to refrain from using firearms during the uprising does not apply to self-defense.

Khalaf made clear that there has been no renunciation of the "armed struggle." On the contrary, he said, "we declare that the 'armed struggle' will continue until the enemy will obey, and will abandon his haughtiness."

Hawatmeh, speaking from the Persian Gulf principality of Abu Dhabi, characterized the Beit Ulla incident as an act of outstanding bravery and an example of popular self-defense.

He stressed that the Palestinian uprising was a "national revolution" conducted primarily through "armed struggle."

Hawatmeh also was quoted as vowing the continuation of "fedayeen" incursions "from the refugee camps in Lebanon" into "the heart of the Zionist entity."

# SOVIET DIPLOMAT PRAISES REVIVAL OF JEWISH CULTURE IN THE USSR

By Bette Keva

The Jewish Advocate

BOSTON, May 22 (JTA) -- The new era of warmer relations between the Soviet Union and world Jewry was in evidence here earlier this month at a meeting of the American Jewish Historical Society.

A high-ranking Soviet Embassy official delivered the keynote address and used the opportunity to praise the Jewish cultural revival under way in the Soviet Union.

The occasion was a May 9 tribute to World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman, who received the society's Emma Lazarus Award for his humanitarian work on behalf of Soviet Jews.

The main speaker was Oleg Derkovsky, political counselor to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, who delivered his country's congratulations to Bronfman.

Derkovsky read an address prepared by Yuri Dubinin, the Soviet ambassador to the United States. Dubinin had been scheduled to attend himself, but was called back to Moscow for the talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

"An organized Jewish community is reviving in the USSR," Derkovsky told his audience.

"People are returning to the synagogues, celebrating the Jewish holidays. There are already 100 Jewish communities in the USSR. Yeshivas are opening. The Soviet Union will provide stipends," the Soviet official said.

Derkovsky stressed that there are virtually no restrictions on Soviet Jews wishing to emigrate, except those few cases where the individual is privy to "state secrets."

He also said his country is "being guided by a sense of urgency in the Middle East.

"The status quo is dangerous. The arms race in the Middle East is of great concern to us," the Soviet diplomat said. "Our position on an Arab-Israeli settlement is based on the conviction that there can be no military solution. We want to search for a mutually acceptable" outcome.

Derkovsky stressed that the Soviet Union wants to have good relations with all countries in the region, including Israel.

## AFULA POISONINGS UNDER INVESTIGATION

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA) -- A 21-year-old woman died Sunday and 19 other people were hospitalized as police in northern Israel investigated mysterious poisonings at a disposable diaper factory in Afula.

The police said Monday they had not ruled out sabotage for "nationalistic motives" as a possible cause, an oblique reference to the Palestinian uprising.

A spokesman for the Afula Valley Hospital said factory employees were admitted Sunday complaining of severe stomach cramps, headaches and dizziness about two hours after they had lunch at the factory cafeteria.

The kitchen was ordered closed and food and water samples were taken for analysis. Blood was taken from the patients for testing.

Of the 19 who were hospitalized, one 19-year-old patient remained unconscious in the intensive-care unit Sunday night. The others were released.

# A MODERATE IS ELECTED TO HEAD COUNCIL OF FRENCH JEWISH GROUPS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 22 (JTA) -- Jean Kahn, a 59-year-old attorney and community leader, on Sunday was overwhelmingly elected president of CRIF, the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France.

Kahn, who was vice president of CRIF and head of the Jewish community of Strasbourg, succeeds Theo Klein, who had served the maximum two terms allowed in office.

Kahn is regarded as the most moderate of the three leading candidates he defeated -- all of them lawyers.

He said he would do his best to mend relations between the French Jewish community and President Francois Mitterrand.

Those ties soured badly after French Jews angrily reproached Mitterrand for inviting Yasir Arafat to Paris. They demonstrated en masse when the French president received the Palestine Liberation Organization leader at the Elysee Palace on May 2.

CRIF, an umbrella organization, has been compared to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in the United States. It is composed of representatives of some 40 groups -- virtually all of the main Jewish welfare, political, Zionist, cultural and sports organizations and associations in France.

The other main important body in the French Jewish community is the Jewish Consistory, a religious organization that walked out of CRIF two years ago in a dispute with Klein. It might rejoin CRIF now that it has a new president.

## JEWISH MUSEUM IN AMSTERDAM WINS EUROPEAN MUSEUM PRIZE

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, May 22 (JTA) -- The Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam has been awarded an "Oscar" and \$5,000 as winner of the 1989 European Museum Prize.

The 57-year-old institution, which was looted by the Nazis during World War II, is the first museum in the Netherlands ever to receive the prize, which was established by the Strasbourg-based Council of Europe.

The museum was cited for the unique manner in which it presents Jewish culture as part of Dutch culture.

The "Oscar" is a statuette by the French artist Joan Miro. It was presented to the museum's director, Judith Belinfante, in Strasbourg.

She brought it home for an unveiling at the museum last week in the presence of the Dutch government's director general for cultural affairs.

The Jewish Historical Museum was founded in 1932 by a group of local Jewish intellectuals. It began with a very modest collection housed in cramped quarters.

The museum survived the German occupation, but was not reopened until 1955, in its original premises, on the upper floor of an old building.

Subsequently, the Amsterdam municipality took it over. In 1978, plans were made to expand the museum and transfer it to much larger quarters in the former Ashkenazic synagogue, which was left in ruins by the war.

The restoration work took nine years and cost nearly \$5 million.