

# U.S. ENVOY MET WITH PLO DELEGATE, BUT IN SECURITY COUNCIL CAPACITY

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, June 7 (JTA) -- U.S. and Israeli officials are refuting claims by the Palestine Liberation Organization that a meeting Monday between U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and the PLO's U.N. delegate was a continuation of the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

According to a spokeswoman for the U.S. delegation, Ambassador Thomas Pickering met with Zehdi Terzi, head of the PLO's observer mission to the United Nations, only in the U.S. ambassador's role as president this month of the U.N. Security Council.

"There was no reflection upon our relations with the PLO, nor any direct bilateral issues," said the spokeswoman. "The meeting dealt solely with Security Council matters. The only authorized channel for the PLO dialogue with the U.S. remains the ambassador to Tunis," Robert Pelletreau.

Israeli officials expressed disappointment in the meeting, but they accepted Pickering's explanation.

"We know about the meeting and understood it was done under the customs of the Security Council and no other way. It is not the kind of meeting that we can prevent, since it's done under the jurisdiction of the Security Council," said Barukh Binah, spokesman for the Israeli mission.

The last time an American delegate to the United Nations was known to speak with the PLO was 1979, when then-Ambassador Andrew Young held an unauthorized meeting with PLO representatives.

Young, who is black, resigned after the meeting became known, leading to a storm of anger by black leaders against the Jewish community, which strongly disapproved of the meeting.

## Resolution Condemning Israel

The Security Council presidency rotates among members of the body, who serve one-month terms. Pickering is serving his first term as president.

Pickering's meeting with Terzi came as the Security Council prepared to debate a resolution condemning Israel for its handling of the Palestinian uprising.

The meeting was requested last week by Sudan on behalf of the Arab League. The Arabs are asking the Security Council to condemn Israel for violations of Palestinian human rights and the human rights standards contained in the Fourth Geneva Convention.

In addition, they ask that Israel be condemned for "desecrating the Holy Koran." When debate on the resolution opened Tuesday, Terzi read aloud a Jewish Telegraphic Agency report of Israeli soldiers who used pages from the Moslem holy book as toilet paper. Israeli officers called the incident inadvertent.

The Arab states tried to introduce a similar statement to the Security Council last month, but abandoned the effort after U.S. objections that it was too one-sided. U.S. officials are again ex-

pected to block the resolution when it comes to a vote, expected later in the week at the earliest.

In a statement to the Security Council on Wednesday, Israel's acting ambassador, Johanan Bein, said that the Arab-Israeli conflict "will not be resolved here; it will not be resolved by blatant accusations, extreme demands and futile debates in this council."

## CONTENDERS FOR POSTS IN HOUSE HAVE VARYING RECORDS ON ISRAEL

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 7 (JTA) -- Jewish groups are backing the front-runners in the June 14 races for majority leader and majority whip of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The reason is that they have strong records of support for Israel, unlike their opponents, one of whom is a strong advocate of Palestinian rights.

The Jewish groups are favoring the election of Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) as majority leader and Rep. William Gray III (D-Pa.) as majority whip.

House Speaker Thomas Foley (D-Wash.) had been the majority leader. He was elected speaker Tuesday to replace Rep. Jim Wright (D-Texas), who resigned his post and is expected to retire in the face of a House ethics committee investigation.

The whip post is being vacated by Rep. Tony Coelho (D-Calif.), who is retiring June 15 rather than undergo a likely investigation by the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Rep. Ed Jenkins (D-Ga.) is the other announced candidate for majority leader against Gephardt, who unsuccessfully sought the 1988 Democratic nomination for president. Running against Gray are Reps. David Bonior (D-Mich.) and Beryl Anthony (D-Ark.).

Bonior is considered a vocal supporter of Palestinians and is said to have a close working relationship with two of the premier Arab groups in this country: the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the National Association of Arab Americans.

He met with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat in July 1982.

## 'One Of The Most Unfriendly'

He argued forcefully in favor of a 1986 arms sale to Saudi Arabia, saying that a defeat of the sale would "undercut relations with this pro-Western, anti-Soviet nation."

In an interview last August with the Detroit Jewish News, Bonior said, "Culturally and politically the American-Israel lobby has been very effective in winning public and congressional support, so I am always going to be a minority voice in Congress."

Morris Amitay, a pro-Israel lobbyist in Washington and former executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, called Bonior "one of the most unfriendly members in the House with regard to Israel."

Gray, on the other hand, has been "a very important friend over the years on the Appropriations Committee and as budget chairman" for aid to Israel, he said.

Likewise, Gephardt has been "a solid, consistent friend of Israel, with a fine voting record," Amitay said. He described opponent Jenkins' record on Israel as "fair."

"Anthony is a little better than Jenkins" on Israel, Amitay said.

But Jenkins, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, is being supported by the committee's chairman, Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.) and by at least one Jewish, staunchly pro-Israel member of Congress, Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.).

"Jenkins is not outstanding, one way or the other, whereas Bonior is outstanding negatively," Amitay said. On the other hand, Jenkins, but not Bonior, has traditionally voted against foreign aid bills, including the annual \$3 billion package for Israel.

#### Strong Candidates For Caucus Chair

One congressional aide to a strongly pro-Israel member of Congress couched Jenkins' votes against foreign aid by saying that the Georgia congressman never had "an incentive to vote in favor of foreign aid," because there are not a lot of Jews in his district.

Jackie Sosby, Jenkins' press secretary, said Jenkins' foreign aid votes were not "directed at any ethnic group whatsoever."

On domestic issues, Jenkins and Anthony are "more conservative across the board, and it certainly plays out on the social issues," said Mark Pelavin, associate Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress.

Gephardt is the "centrist" among the five contending for Democratic leadership posts, Pelavin said.

For example, Bonior and Gray are co-sponsors of the family medical leave act, "which is a priority for many Jewish groups," Pelavin said, while Anthony and Jenkins are not.

When House Democrats convene on June 14, they will also be electing a new caucus chairperson, unless Gray, the current chairman, retains that post.

The candidates for caucus chairperson are both pro-Israel: Reps. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and Barbara Kennelly (D-Conn.).

Hoyer is "outstanding," Amitay said, noting his co-chairmanship of the congressional Helsinki Commission monitoring Soviet human rights policies. And Kennelly has "a good record of support" for Israel, Amitay said.

#### SHAMIR REJECTS SESSION WITH ARAFAT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) — Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat "is dying to meet with me," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir claimed Tuesday.

Shamir said he has rejected "almost daily" proposals to meet with the PLO chairman, because "Arafat is not interested in peace."

According to Shamir, "his objective in proposing a meeting with me is to hoodwink the rest of the world and persuade the Americans to increase their contacts with the PLO."

The prime minister, who spoke to reporters during a tour of northern Israel, refused to say how Arafat's requests for a meeting were relayed to him.

But he made clear that under no circumstances would he ever talk to the "murderous PLO or its leader, Arafat."

#### PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD AMENDMENT DEFEATED BY BAY STATE DEMOCRATS

By Bette Keva

The Jewish Advocate

BOSTON, June 7 (JTA) — A broad-based coalition led by Jewish groups was instrumental in engineering the defeat Saturday of a resolution introduced at the Massachusetts state Democratic Party convention that would have called for the creation of a Palestinian state.

On a voice vote, an overwhelming majority of the state's 4,000 Democratic delegates present at Northeastern University's Matthews Arena said no to an amendment advanced by the Citizens for Participation in Political Action, or CPPAX, which supports a slate of progressive issues.

Instead, the convention adopted a plank that affirms "unequivocal support for Israel, as written in the Camp David Accords," recognizes the "legitimate rights of the Palestinians" and supports Israel's recent call for Palestinian elections in the territories.

"One of the cardinal rules of politics is to ask people to help, and we have been overwhelmed by help," said Leonard Zakim, New England regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which led the opposition.

"This is not just a Jewish issue," he added.

The CPPAX amendment called for the creation of an independent Palestinian state and for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians' chosen representatives.

The amendment conflicts with the national Democratic Party plank on the Middle East, which says nothing about a Palestinian state.

#### New Jewish Agenda Endorsed It

Among the groups endorsing the CPPAX proposal was New Jewish Agenda. But the group blocked an earlier version of the amendment that would have called for monitoring U.S. aid to Israel so that none could be used "to perpetuate Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza."

New Jewish Agenda has long supported a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It helped put forward a resolution to that effect before the Democratic National Convention last summer.

According to Zakim, the defeated amendment would have served to undermine Israel by "imposing a solution from the outside. If people are truly concerned about furthering the peace process, they'd know the only passage to peace is through direct negotiations."

Also opposing the CPPAX proposal was Democrats for Middle East Peace, an ad hoc committee that obtained the support of virtually all of the leading Democrats in the state, including Gov. Michael Dukakis, Sens. Edward Kennedy and John Kerry, and U.S. Reps. Barney Frank and Joseph Kennedy, Jr.

The committee was chaired by Charles Flaherty, majority leader of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Kennedy and Flaherty represent Cambridge, a district which last November passed a referendum urging Congress to scrutinize aid to Israel.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Ron Brown contributed a statement supporting the majority stand. Zakim called Brown's statement "the most supportive we've seen on record from the chair of the Democratic Party."

(JTA staff writer Andrew Silow Carroll in New York contributed to this report.)

# KNESSET DEBATES, THEN DROPS, PROPOSAL TO GIVE UP TERRITORIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 7 (JTA) — The Knesset shelved a motion to debate whether Israel should divest itself of the administered territories, as violence in the territories continued Wednesday.

The issue in the Knesset was whether it would be feasible for Israel to rid itself of the West Bank and Gaza Strip before a political settlement is reached.

"Definitely no," was the reply of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"Why not?" asked Haim Ramon, a fellow Laborite, who introduced the motion for debate.

The present situation between the Israelis and the Palestinians is intolerable and impossible to continue, argued Ramon, who comes from the dovish side of the party.

He warned that the daily presence in Israel of 120,000 Palestinian workers from the territories was disastrous for Israel's economy, its society and its moral image.

"The distorted co-existence between Jewish employers and Palestinian employees, between those who throw out the garbage and those who live in it, fuels the flames of hatred," Ramon said.

But Rabin insisted that Israel could not detach itself from the territories in the absence of a political solution.

He also argued that it would harm both the Israeli and Palestinian economic systems, because the construction, hotel and service industries in Israel rely on Arab workers, who in turn depend on Israel for their livelihood.

## Conflicting Reports In Hebron

Nevertheless, security needs override even economic considerations, the defense minister said. He said the IDF reserves the right to limit work permits in Israel for Palestinians, in order to weed out those with criminal and security offense records.

Ramon's motion was removed from the agenda.

Meanwhile, a number of security incidents were reported in the territories:

- \* A fracas in Hebron involving a militant Jewish settler, Arabs and Israeli soldiers, led to gunfire and an automobile accident.

- \* The Israel Defense Force demolished the homes of two Nablus youths alleged to have thrown gasoline bombs at Jewish vehicles.

- \* Four yeshiva students arrested for the fatal shooting last week of a teen-aged Palestinian girl in Kifl Harit village were freed on bail. Three others remained in custody, at least until Thursday.

Scattered violence was reported in the West Bank and most of the Gaza Strip remained under curfew.

Palestinians continued a general strike in mourning for Omar Kassem, a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who died of cancer Sunday after spending 21 years in Israeli prisons.

Conflicting versions were given of events in Hebron.

According to the official report, Anat Cohen, a resident of the Jewish quarter who has scuffled with Arabs and with soldiers before, was engaged in fisticuffs Wednesday with three Arab women.

A soldier who tried to separate them was

shoved away by Cohen. A vehicle with three Arab passengers, moving slowly, allegedly bumped the Jewish woman.

An Egged bus escorted by military jeep passed by. The officer in the jeep fired a rubber bullet at the Arabs' car, which drove off.

Armed Jewish bus passengers then opened fire on the car with live bullets. They caused the driver to lose control. The car overturned, seriously injuring the driver.

Jewish settlers gave a different version. They denied that Cohen struck a soldier. They claimed an Arab-driven car deliberately tried to run her over. They denied the bus passengers fired weapons, claiming that the shots were fired by soldiers.

# U.S. FEARS INTIFADA WILL WORSEN, BUT BELIEVES PLO IS MORE MODERATE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) — The United States believes that the Palestine Liberation Organization has become more flexible toward Israel.

It has warned the Israelis, however, that the Palestinian uprising will become more deadly and violent in the months ahead.

Those views emerged in recent official contacts between American intelligence officials and senior Israeli leaders, Ma'ariv reported Wednesday.

The uprising, which the Palestinians call the intifada, is already gaining momentum as the summer approaches.

It is spreading to areas that were previously relatively calm, and Palestinian efforts to acquire firearms are increasing, the American intelligence sources reportedly said.

But those sources know of no change in the PLO's orders against the use of firearms by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ma'ariv said the United States is convinced that the PLO accepts the Israeli idea of Palestinian elections in the territories and that its conditions for such elections are more flexible than they appear from the rhetoric of PLO leaders.

Washington believes a genuine change has occurred in the PLO's attitude toward Israel, including a recognition that it will have to negotiate with Israel, Ma'ariv reported.

# ISRAELI ARMY KILLS TWO IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) — An Israel Defense Force patrol killed two terrorists just north of the southern Lebanon security zone Tuesday night.

It was the fifth such encounter in 10 days and brought to 11 the number of would-be infiltrators killed by the IDF since May 28.

The army patrol, a unit of the Golani Brigade, was on a search-and-destroy mission when it detected the terrorists near Houna village. The soldiers opened fire as the intruders tried to escape.

In the same general area, the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army blew up a Hezbollah ammunition dump.

The Hezbollah, or Party of God, is the Iranian-backed militia of Shiite Moslem extremists who have worked closely with Palestinians in recent attempts to infiltrate Israel from southern Lebanon.

**ISRAEL BUSTS 'POPULAR ARMY'  
OPERATED BY AL FATAH IN GAZA**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) — Indictments handed down in a military court have cast light on a little known "popular army" established last year in the southern part of the Gaza Strip.

The army, which was broken up by Israeli authorities, was apparently directed and financed by Al Fatah's office in Amman, Jordan. Fatah is the fighting arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization controlled by Yasir Arafat.

The army's purported role was to replace the local Arab police, threaten strikebreakers and other Palestinians who cooperate with Israel, and integrate its activities with the Palestinian uprising, Ha'aretz reported Wednesday.

The newspaper said that between 40 and 50 activists are in custody, including the top military and administrative leaders.

The paper identified them as Rabah Hamad, secretary of the military arm; Akram Arian, the military commander in Khan Yunis; Ramadan Dahlan, treasurer and regional coordinator; and Yassin Sharuf, who was responsible for administrative affairs in Khan Yunis.

According to the military prosecutor, the "popular army" was conceived by Al Fatah and established in the southern Gaza Strip in October 1988.

Hamad received a letter from Fatah headquarters instructing him to divide Khan Yunis into two districts, the town of Rafah into another and the refugee camps into a fourth district. Squads were set up and leaders chosen in each district.

Uniforms were purchased for the "soldiers," Ha'aretz reported. A pay scale was established. Unmarried men received the equivalent of \$60 a month in Jordanian dinars, and married men were paid \$100 a month.

Fatah approved about \$60,000 for expenses to be divided among the men.

**HEAD OF WIZO QUOTES CARDINAL  
SAYING HE'S POWERLESS ON NUNS**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) — The ranking Roman Catholic prelate in Poland claims he is powerless to remove a Carmelite convent from the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp because the nuns refuse to leave, according to the president of the Women's International Zionist Organization.

Raya Yaglom reported here that she recently had a long conversation with the Polish cardinal, Franciszek Macharski.

He was one of the European cardinals who signed the Geneva agreement with world Jewish leaders in February 1987, promising that the convent would be relocated within two years.

"We spoke for two hours, and after much pressure he admitted he had signed the undertaking but was incapable of carrying it out," Yaglom said.

"He justified this by repeating over and over that he had not expected the nuns to be so recalcitrant and that he had anyway received tens of thousands of letters from Polish Catholics who wanted the convent left where it was," Yaglom reported.

She arrived in Israel after leading a 300-member international WIZO delegation on a study tour of Holocaust sites in Poland.

They staged a demonstration at the Auschwitz site to protest the continued presence of the convent.

Yaglom said she had her meeting with Macharski after the Auschwitz visit, when she asked him what the significance was of the 24-foot-high cross recently erected in front of the convent.

The cardinal told her it marked the place where the first Poles fell victim to the Nazis.

The WIZO head said her meetings in Poland left her "with the clear feeling that there is a strong desire there, particularly in the Church, to de-Judaize the Shoah and turn it into a Christian Holocaust."

She said of Cardinal Macharski, "At no point did he mention Jews or the suffering of the Jews. He spoke of Polish suffering, and he also denied that the convent's premises had ever been the storehouse for the death camp's Zyklon B gas cylinders."

But the Polish minister of religions, Vladislav Lorenc, admitted to Yaglom that the building that now houses the convent had indeed been used to store the gas, though it had not been the main storage.

Yaglom said that in parting, she asked the minister why he thought the Nazis chose Poland as the place to build their extermination camps.

"He went very red and said, 'That's a very provocative question,' without elaborating further," Yaglom reported.

**FEDERATION OF POLISH JEWS CALLS  
FOR END TO CATHOLIC-JEWISH TALKS**

NEW YORK, June 7 (JTA) — The Federation of Polish Jews in the United States said this week that it will demand suspension of Catholic-Jewish dialogue if a Carmelite convent built on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp is not removed forthwith.

The federation claimed that the furor aroused by the convent deterred plans by the Catholic Capuchin order to build a chapel on the site of Sobibor, another death camp in Poland, all of whose inmates were Jews.

Yechiel Dobekirer and Leon Ilutovich, vice presidents of the federation, said in a statement that "had this development gone unchecked, we would soon have witnessed the establishment of additional convents, churches or chapels at Treblinka, Sobibor, Majdanek and other places where millions of Jews perished at the hands of the Nazis."

They criticized the Polish government for the convent being under its jurisdiction, saying "the government cannot be absolved of responsibility for developments like the one around the Carmelite convent in Auschwitz."

The federation specifically held Polish Cardinal Franciszek Macharski "chiefly responsible" for the continued failure to remove the convent from Auschwitz.

Macharski was one of the European cardinals who signed an agreement with world Jewish leaders in February 1987 in Geneva, pledging that the convent would be relocated within two years.

A resolution adopted by the Federation stated:

"As spokesmen of the largest community of Polish Jews in the world, representing one million Jews from Poland, we condemn the behavior of the Polish Catholic church hierarchy, and the evasive attitude of the Vatican, which violate the letter and spirit of the 1987 accord.