

## **BUSH TELLS PERES THAT HE SUPPORTS EGYPTIAN EFFORTS TO ADVANCE PEACE**

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- President Bush took an opportunity during his meeting Monday afternoon with Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres to praise Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's efforts to act as a mediator between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Peres said that Bush was "impressed by the progress Mubarak has produced." Peres quoted the U.S. president as saying he had "great respect" for Mubarak and thought the Egyptian leader was "doing a very important job."

At a separate briefing here Monday, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker also praised Mubarak's proposal. Baker said the Bush administration was "committed to promoting direct discussion between Israelis and Palestinians."

Until now, the Bush administration has been cautious about reacting to a 10-point plan Mubarak has proposed to advance the peace process.

It calls, among other things, for preliminary negotiations between Israel and a delegation of Palestinian leaders, including some from outside the administered territories. Israel's Labor Party has reacted positively to the plan, while the Likud rejects it.

Peres, who heads the Labor Party, told Bush that he interpreted Mubarak's 10-point proposal as acceptance of the Israeli government's peace initiative. He told the president he believes a real possibility now exists for negotiating with Palestinians.

### **Arens Criticizes Peres**

Bush reportedly told the vice premier that the United States would go "full steam ahead" with efforts for peace. But there was no immediate indication about what specific action the administration plans to take.

Peres said that he explained to Bush that internal Israeli disagreement about the Egyptian proposals presently falls along party lines, but he added that there was potential for divisiveness within each of Israel's major parties.

The Labor-Likud squabble over the Egyptian plan was evident in remarks made earlier Monday by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens of Likud, who, like Bush, is here to attend the 44th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Speaking at a news briefing, Arens criticized Peres, saying he was undermining the unity government by speaking out publicly in favor of the Egyptian plan.

Arens said Likud rejects the Egyptian plan, because it believes no negotiations should take place until after the Palestinian elections Israel proposes to hold in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We want to talk to people elected in democratic elections," he maintained. "There can be negotiations only after elections."

Arens said that Peres, who serves as finance minister in the Cabinet, should confine his remarks to financial issues. He also said that the U.S. government is well aware that Peres does not speak for all of Israel.

The Americans "have a very good understanding of who won the last election and who would win the next one," he said, referring to Likud's current dominance over Labor in Israeli public opinion.

### **Bush Praises A 'Nice Surprise'**

Arens was scheduled to meet separately with President Bush during a Monday evening reception at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Peres' meeting with Bush, held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, lasted one hour. Immediately afterward, he telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Jerusalem to brief him on the session.

Joining Peres at the meeting were his political adviser, Nimrod Novik, and the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arad.

Accompanying Bush on the American side were White House Chief of Staff John Sununu; National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft; Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations; and Dennis Ross, head of the State Department's policy-planning staff.

Peres reportedly told Bush that he has found the president's policies "a nice surprise" -- regarding both the Middle East and the subject of Soviet Jewish emigration.

Earlier this month, the Bush administration announced that as of Oct. 1, it would no longer grant refugee status to Jews who emigrate from the Soviet Union with Israeli visas.

During the meeting, Peres told Bush that Israel "needs Soviet Jews more than the United States needs them."

When Bush asked Peres about the principle of freedom of choice for Soviet Jews, the vice premier replied that there was no such thing as choice for Soviet Jews after "70 years of (Soviet) propaganda" against Israel.

Peres told Bush that 1989 had been "a good year for democracy" and indicated that he saw the Israeli proposal for Palestinian elections as part of the worldwide movement toward democracy.

## **LIKUD AND LABOR MAKE SHOW OF UNITY AS THEIR LEADERS CLASH IN NEW YORK**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- Seeking to create a semblance of national unity, the Likud and Labor parties joined forces Monday to defeat a spate of no-confidence motions introduced in the Knesset by the smaller, opposition parties.

As Labor's Vice Premier Shimon Peres and Likud's Foreign Minister Moshe Arens traded barbs and pursued separate diplomatic agendas in the United States, the parties they represent vied at home to outdo each other in shows of loyalty to the government.

Although sharply divided over the peace process, neither Likud nor Labor was anxious to be perceived as the cause of the unity government's collapse.

The issue splitting the two parties is Egypt's 10-point proposal to advance the Israeli peace initiative. It calls, among other things, for preliminary negotiations between Israel and a delegation of Palestinian leaders, including some from outside

the administered territories. Likud has rejected the plan. Labor leaders have welcomed it.

The Knesset, normally in recess at this time for the Jewish holidays, is clamoring to debate the issue. Environmental Protection Minister Ronni Milo of Likud promised a full Knesset debate on the matter after the Cabinet had worked out the issues itself.

Such a debate would not occur for at least two weeks, after Peres and Arens return from the United States and report on their separate talks with President Bush and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

#### Hints Of A Narrow Coalition

The two major blocs appear to have heeded the words of Interior Minister Arye Deri of the ultra-Orthodox Shas party, who warned Sunday that "the people want to see this unity government survive."

"The Likud will not be the one to bring down this government," Construction and Housing Minister David Levy of Likud pledged Monday.

He blasted anonymous "sources in the Prime Minister's Office" whom he accused of issuing ominous threats to the press falsely implying that the government's days were numbered.

Levy further pointed out that "if Labor decides to withdraw, that is not necessarily tantamount to the end of the government."

This seemed to be a hint that Likud might try to stitch together a narrow government with the religious parties rather than seek immediate elections.

On the Labor side, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin also insisted Monday that the government need not fall, nor did he want to see it fall.

It was Rabin's sudden visit to Cairo last week and subsequent approval of the Egyptian proposals that touched off the current coalition crisis.

Rabin maintains his position is consistent with government policy, since he continues to support the government's peace initiative, which he formulated together with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Israel, he said, would bring its peace initiative to the negotiating table. Likewise, a Palestinian delegation, selected by Egypt after consultation with Israel, should be able to bring to the dialogue Egypt's "10 points" as its opening position.

"Let us discuss this with reference solely to the issues involved, and not to party, political or coalitional ramifications," the defense minister urged.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, who heads his own "One Jerusalem" party, lent his support to the Mubarak plan, endorsing its call for the inclusion of East Jerusalem Arabs in the proposed Palestinian elections.

#### **BUSH URGES U.N. TO FIGHT TERRORISM AND CALLS FOR END TO CHEMICAL ARMS** By Allison Kaplan

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- President Bush delivered a stinging denunciation of terrorism Monday as he addressed the 44th U.N. General Assembly.

He also warned that "regional conflict may well threaten world peace as never before."

In his speech, Bush made no specific reference to the Middle East peace process, mentioning neither Israeli nor Egyptian proposals currently

being floated.

But he said "the United States is determined to take an active role in settling regional conflicts."

Bush was emotional when addressing the issue of terrorism.

"Hostage-taking and the terror of random violence are methods that cannot win the world's approval," the president said. "Terrorism of any kind is repugnant to all values a civilized world holds in common."

He added emphatically, "And make no mistake: Terrorism is a means that no end -- no matter how just that end -- can sanctify."

To demonstrate its abhorrence of terrorism, Bush urged the General Assembly to condemn the murder of Lt. Col. William Higgins, the American Marine who died in the hands of Shiite kidnappers in Lebanon. Higgins was serving at the time with the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization in Lebanon.

Bush called on "those responsible" for the murder to return Higgins' remains to his family.

#### Austria Backs PLO Role

The president also called on the Soviet Union to join the United States in helping eliminate the "scourge" of chemical weapons. He said the United States would be willing to cut its own stockpiles of chemical arms by 80 percent as a first step toward a worldwide ban.

Israel has been concerned about the proliferation of chemical weapons, particularly among such hard-line Arab states as Syria and Libya.

Asked for his reaction to the president's remarks, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said, "Great speech. I agree with it 100 percent."

Arens said terrorism is a subject on which the United States and Israel have had close contacts. Fighting it, he said, will take close cooperation between the countries that are opposed to it.

Arens, who is to address the General Assembly on Wednesday, has scheduled a number of meetings with foreign dignitaries, including Presidents Carlos Saul Menem of Argentina and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, as well as the foreign ministers of Hungary, Japan, Poland, Portugal, Spain and several Western European nations.

Among the other statesmen to address the General Assembly on Monday was Alois Mock, Austria's minister for foreign affairs.

He addressed the Middle East situation more directly, welcoming "the recent peace proposal put forward by President (Hosni) Mubarak of Egypt" but making no mention of the Israeli peace initiative.

Mock said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be resolved at an international peace conference, with the "Palestinian people represented by the PLO."

He also condemned the ongoing violence and "violation of human rights" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli government opposes the international peace conference format and rejects any negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Because of the Rosh Hashanah holiday, JTA will not publish a Daily News Bulletin on Monday, Oct. 2. The JTA worldwide staff wishes all of our readers a sweet and joyous new year.

## PALESTINIANS IGNORE PLO ORDERS TO STOP MURDERING FELLOW ARABS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization's influence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has been sagging lately, as Palestinians there virtually ignore specific PLO orders to stop executing fellow Arabs believed to be collaborating with Israeli authorities.

The focus of internal Palestinian terrorism has been in the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, where two men were hacked to death with axes Sunday by masked assailants. The killings brought to four the number of Rafah residents killed in one week.

The Unified Command of the Palestinian uprising reportedly is deeply troubled by this uncontrolled wave of politically inspired executions.

PLO leader Yasir Arafat repeatedly has spoken out against the increased violence. A letter to that effect in his own handwriting has been distributed in the territories and the latest leaflet issued by the Unified Command repeated the call. But neither has been to any avail.

The killings indicate a growing rift inside the Palestinian community, particularly between the PLO and Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist movement.

Ostensibly, the killings are perpetrated to punish those who collaborate with the Israeli authorities. But according to Israeli officials, many of the killings have had nothing to do with Israel and have simply been used to "settle accounts," sometimes with no political background at all.

According to the Israeli Embassy in Washington, 110 Palestinians were murdered by fellow Arabs in the territories from the beginning of the uprising in December 1987 through Sept. 13 of this year.

The number of killings has escalated sharply in recent weeks, averaging 16 per month from June to August, compared to two a month during the first year of the uprising.

## ISRAELI LINKED TO COLOMBIA DRUG WAR TO TESTIFY BEFORE U.S. SENATE PANEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- The Israeli soldier of fortune implicated in training Colombian death squads is to travel to the United States next week to testify before a Senate subcommittee investigating the Colombian drug cartels.

IDF reserve Lt. Col. Yair Klein, president of the Hod Hahanit (Spearhead) security consulting firm, has confirmed that he will make the trip to Washington. He said Sunday he was not afraid of testifying, despite reports that Colombia is seeking an international warrant for his arrest and extradition.

"I will tell the Senate subcommittee exactly what I told police -- that I trained farmers to defend themselves against guerrilla attacks. The Colombian police and army admit that I did nothing wrong," he asserted.

The Department of Administrative Security in Bogota has said that Klein was charged there with criminal conspiracy and is being sought for extradition along with another Israeli, Arik Acek, an associate of Klein's.

Klein was first named in connection with the bloody Colombian drug war last month, when he appeared in a film broadcast by NBC News that

purportedly showed him training Colombian marksmen involved in the drug cartels.

The trainers in the film spoke in Hebrew, and one of the marksmen interviewed said the Israeli trainers were excellent.

Police here have been investigating Klein and other Israelis for having engaged in business in Colombia without obtaining the requisite licenses from the Defense Ministry for exporting defense techniques and training.

Klein's passport, which was confiscated, was returned to him. He is presently free on \$15,000 bail.

If Colombia obtains an international arrest warrant against him from Interpol, such a warrant is not enforceable in Israel, which has no extradition agreement with Colombia.

Klein said he had sufficient trust in the United States to risk the possibility that Colombia would seek to extradite him while he was there.

## ISRAELI LEADERS IN CONTACT WITH U.S. OVER POLLARD CASE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- Israel has been maintaining official contacts with U.S. authorities regarding the case of Anne Henderson Pollard, a government minister disclosed Monday.

Environmental Protection Minister Ronni Milo told the Knesset that these contacts were designed to help ensure that Pollard could complete her jail sentence in such a way as to be able to lead a full and productive life thereafter.

Pollard is scheduled to be released next spring from jail, where she is serving two concurrent five-year sentences for possession of classified documents in connection with the espionage activities of her husband, Jonathan Pollard.

Jonathan Pollard, a former Navy intelligence analyst, is serving a life sentence in a maximum security prison in Illinois for having provided Israel with top-secret U.S. documents pertaining to what he considered Israel's security.

His wife, who suffers from a rare digestive disorder, had asked to be released on early parole on account of her bad health, but prison authorities rejected her petition. She is filing an appeal to the National Parole Board.

Her request for a furlough to attend High Holy Day services was turned down, reconsidered and is now in limbo just a few days before Rosh Hashanah.

Milo's remarks are the first indication that the Israeli government has intervened in the Pollard case.

Cabinet ministers have been quoted several times as saying that the government would not involve itself with the matter.

Milo spoke in response to a motion introduced by Knesset member Yitzhak Levy of the National Religious Party, who called on President Bush to personally intervene on Pollard's behalf for humanitarian reasons.

Several Knesset members, among them women from the major parties, have called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to intervene, following reports from Pollard supporters in the United States that her health was deteriorating rapidly.

In New York, Pollard's father, Bernard Henderson, said he was "aware of several contacts" with Israeli government figures, but he said no one from Israel had examined the records of the Pollard case or "determined its accuracy."

## LAST EX-NAZI HELD IN DUTCH PRISON DIES EIGHT MONTHS AFTER RELEASE

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- The last ex-Nazi to have been held in a Dutch prison died several days ago in the West German village of Bigge, southeast of Dortmund.

Franz Fischer, 87, whose release from the Dutch prison in Breda on Jan. 27 caused much debate and psychological trauma in Holland, was the last survivor of two aged Nazi war criminals who had come to be known as "The Breda Two." They were in turn once part of a quartet of Nazis in that prison called the "Four of Breda."

Following the release in the 1960s of one of those four and the death of another in 1979, Fischer and the only other surviving Nazi war criminal convicted in Holland, Ferdinand aus der Fuenten, remained the sole remaining war criminals imprisoned in the Netherlands.

They were released in January on what were described as humanitarian grounds because of their advanced age. Aus der Fuenten, who was 79, was found dead scarcely a month later.

Together, Fischer and Aus der Fuenten were responsible for the deportation of more than 100,000 Dutch Jews.

Fischer, a Gestapo official nicknamed "Judenfischer," headed the "Judenreferat" (Committee for the Jews) in The Hague from 1942 to 1945, registering and deporting 13,000 Jews from that city.

Aus der Fuenten, a captain in the SS, was deputy director of the office responsible for the deportation of all Dutch Jews to death camps.

Their release was vigorously protested inside and outside Holland.

The two men, convicted in 1949, were among 154 German and Dutch Nazis and collaborators found guilty of war crimes and sentenced to death in Holland in the post-war years.

Fischer, at his trial, denied having known that he deported Jews who would be murdered, but the court rejected his claim.

Of the other 152 convicted Nazis in the Netherlands, 40 were executed and the rest had their sentences commuted to life. In 106 of those cases, the sentences were reduced to a maximum of 20 years. Of that group, none served more than 15 years.

By the 1960s, only four remained in Dutch prisons, including Fischer and Aus der Fuenten. One, Willy Lages, was freed in 1966 because he was believed to be dying. Another, Joseph Kottaela, died in prison in 1979.

Although the Dutch justice minister in 1972 supported the release of Fischer and Aus der Fuenten, the idea was rejected in closed hearings.

When the parliamentary debate on the men's fate was reopened 16 years later, it was broadcast live in its entirety on Dutch television, prompting demonstrations by Jews and former resistance fighters.

## CHINESE OPEN ISRAELI TOURISM OFFICE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- China opened an official tourism bureau in Tel Aviv this week, an act which is seen as the first step toward formal relations between Israel and China.

But at a news conference Sunday in Tel Aviv, the head of the seven-member Chinese delegation, Tang Shnuki, said the sole purpose of

the mission is to exchange tourists and "promote the friendship" between the two peoples.

The flow of Israelis into China has diminished to several hundred following the suppression of the democratic movement in China last summer. But the Chinese guests estimated the potential number of Israeli tourists at several thousand a year.

Tang said that stability has returned to China and that the country is safe for tourists. He said that if Israel desired, the Chinese authorities would probably consent to the opening of an Israeli tourism bureau in China.

## 2 ISRAELIS ARRESTED IN ANTWERP TIED TO BOMB, ARSON BLACKMAIL

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- Two Israelis and two accomplices have been arrested in Antwerp in connection with a series of bombings and arson attacks believed aimed at blackmailing an important Jewish diamond merchant and his associates.

According to press reports, the two Israelis, age 25 and 27, are members of a ring of thugs who are paid to commit attacks and blackmail people in exchange for large amounts of money.

They are reportedly already active in Greece, Switzerland, Britain and Israel itself, especially in diamond circles, and are internationally wanted by police.

The mysterious attacks, none against people, began last June in Antwerp against the properties of diamond merchant Amnon Rachminov, his associate and members of his family.

Police found what they called a "real arsenal" of explosive materiel and arms in the Israelis' apartment in the center of Antwerp.

Police believe the two Israelis were also planning to kidnap someone belonging to Rachminov's entourage.

## WOMAN WITHOUT OVARIES BEARS TRIPLETS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 25 (JTA) -- A medical miracle here has yielded triplets.

A 28-year-old woman born without ovaries, who consequently never menstruated in her life, gave birth last weekend to healthy triplets conceived in a test tube and then implanted in her uterus.

The two girls and a boy were born at Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikva. Their birth as triplets under such circumstances reportedly is a first in Israel and is only the second such occurrence worldwide.

The triplets, whose birth weight ranged from 3 to 3.5 pounds, were delivered by Caesarean section.

Their medical history is a cooperative affair. Three ova were donated by another woman who underwent fertility treatments at Beilinson. They were then fertilized in a test tube with the sperm of the husband of their birth mother.

The three resulting embryos were implanted in the wall of her uterus after her body had been prepared with hormones.

The triplets' birth is among the latest of several recent advances in in-vitro fertilization in Israel.

In the past month, 20 test-tube babies have been born at Beilinson, including twins to another woman similarly born without ovaries.