

**MUBARAK BACKS ISRAELI INITIATIVE,
SAYS HE'S NOT OFFERING ALTERNATIVE**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2 (JTA) -- Adopting a conciliatory stance, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday backed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's peace initiative and said his own 10-point plan should be seen as an attempt to persuade Palestinians to accept the Israeli proposal.

"My 10 points are not an initiative, the initiative is Mr. Shamir's initiative," Mubarak told reporters after an hour-long meeting with President Bush at the White House.

"We agree to the Shamir initiative, but would like some clarification about the points," he said.

Shamir's plan calls for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to elect representatives to negotiate with Israel on self-rule and eventually the final status of the territories.

Israel has been reluctant to discuss how the elections should be conducted until the Palestinians accept the proposal in principle.

Mubarak said his 10 points were an attempt to clarify these issues and could be used by the Palestinians as their opening position in negotiations with Israel on the mechanics of the elections.

But they are not preconditions for such talks, he stressed.

Mubarak's meeting with Bush and a meeting later Monday with Secretary of State James Baker followed the talks the Egyptian leader had last week in New York with Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Next Step Up To Israel

Both Baker and Mubarak have indicated the next step is up to Israel, whose Inner Cabinet is scheduled to meet on the Mubarak proposals Thursday.

"We would like to see the Israeli Cabinet on Thursday conclude that they would like to go forward with the discussions," Baker said in briefing reporters on the Bush-Mubarak meeting.

Israel's Labor Party accepts the Mubarak proposals as a legitimate opening position for Palestinians participating in negotiations with Israel, according to Peres, who heads the party.

Shamir and his Likud bloc have rejected the 10-point plan, because it calls for negotiations based on "land for peace," would allow Palestinians in East Jerusalem to vote in the elections and calls for the Palestinian delegation to include some representatives from outside the territories.

On Monday, however, a top aide to Shamir indicated that Likud might be prepared to support Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo, if they are unencumbered by the Mubarak plan.

Mubarak indicated Monday that he did not want to make any statement that would jeopardize a positive outcome from the Israeli Inner Cabinet. "I am helping both sides to come to a conclusion," he said.

But, he added, "I would like to have Palestinians from inside and outside (the territories), because that is the only guarantee for a dialogue to go on."

Mubarak ignored a question on whether the Palestine Liberation Organization has agreed to his proposals. Baker told reporters that Mubarak did not tell Bush that the PLO has "expressly" accepted his 10 points.

The Egyptian president also indicated he has no immediate plans to meet with Shamir, despite reports that he expressed willingness to do so in his telephone conversation with the Israeli premier.

Such a meeting would require "thorough preparations" and must achieve positive results. Otherwise, "it would have negative reaction for the peoples of both sides," Mubarak said. "I don't want complications between the peoples."

**MUBARAK TELEPHONE CALL HELPS WARM
LIKUD STANCE ON EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS**
By Allison Kaplan

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 2 (JTA) -- Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told Yitzhak Shamir on the telephone Friday that he would like to see him continue to head the Israeli government.

The telephone call to the Israeli prime minister was made during a meeting between Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Arens told reporters that calling Shamir at home was Mubarak's idea.

The Israeli foreign minister said he agreed that the phone call was a good suggestion, "and I just happened to have Shamir's telephone number in my pocket," he said.

Arens reported that the Egyptian and Israeli leaders had a friendly conversation that lasted five to seven minutes.

"Mubarak wished him a happy new year and asked him what kind of food he was eating," Arens said at a briefing he held following his meeting with Mubarak.

Shamir's office confirmed that he had spoken by telephone to Mubarak on Friday. The call was friendly and ended with Mubarak saying "see you soon," said Shamir's spokesman, Yossi Ahimeir.

But no date for a meeting between the two men was fixed or even discussed, he said, contrary to news reports that the two had agreed in principle to a rendezvous.

Nevertheless, the call appears to have helped to break down a barrier between the Egyptians and Israel's Likud bloc. Likud members, notably Arens, had been openly unhappy about Mubarak's refusal to take part in a meeting with Shamir without preconditions.

Shamir May Back Cairo Talks

Speaking to reporters after the Mubarak meeting, Arens sounded far more receptive toward Mubarak's proposal that Egypt serve as a host for talks between Israelis and Palestinians than he had during the rest of his week-long stay in New York.

Arens said that he discussed with the Egyptian president the agenda of an Israeli-Palestinian meeting should such a meeting materialize. He stressed that the only issue covered in such a meeting should be "elections and only elections."

In Jerusalem, a senior aide to Shamir said Monday that the prime minister is willing to have

the preliminary talks in Cairo, as long as they are based on Israel's peace initiative, and not Mubarak's 10-point plan to advance it.

Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said on Israel Radio's English-language news program that the chief problem with what he called the "Egyptian and American counterproposals" is that they seem to ignore Israel's proposed two-stage process and seek to reach a permanent solution immediately.

The Israeli plan calls for negotiations first on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and then, after a confidence-building period of three to five years, talks on the final status of the territories. The Palestinian negotiators would be chosen in elections.

The Egyptians and Americans are trying to discard the interim period, Ben-Aharon complained. He noted that according to the Egyptian plan, everything has to be accomplished in one phase.

Egypt has proposed that the talks center around its 10-point plan. Seven of the points deal with the specifics surrounding Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza, but three points concern the ultimate resolution of the conflict.

News reports in Israel hint that the Bush administration is exerting indirect pressure on Shamir and the Likud to emulate the Labor Party's willingness to accept the Egyptian proposals as a basis for preliminary talks.

Disappointment Over Mubarak Speech

Israel's formal position on the Egyptian ideas is to be decided at what could be a fateful session of the Inner Cabinet on Thursday. The Inner Cabinet, consisting of five Likud and five Labor ministers, is the government's top policy-making body.

Arens said that a key part of his conversation Friday with Mubarak was an explanation of how the Israeli political system works and about the danger of a coalition crisis. He said Mubarak believes, as does the United States, that "to enhance the peace process, a unity government is needed."

Arens himself said he hoped a coalition crisis would be averted. "If reason will prevail, the government will continue to function," he said.

While Arens expressed guarded optimism over his conversation with Mubarak, his reaction to the Egyptian president's address to the United Nations General Assembly on Friday was more subdued.

An Israeli official here said that the Israelis were relatively disappointed with Mubarak's speech. The official noted that Mubarak did not mention Israel's peace initiative, nor even his own 10-point plan.

He said the Israelis also were unhappy with the fact that in his speech, Mubarak called the Palestine Liberation Organization the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

If Egypt believes that the PLO truly represents the Palestinians, the official said, "then what's the point of the election plan that he supposedly endorsed?"

In his address, Mubarak also said that the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue "should be followed by steps" leading to an international peace conference, "in order that a final comprehensive settlement to the dispute can be reached."

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

ISRAEL OUTLAWS ISLAMIC MOVEMENT AS CLASHES LEAVE SEVEN ARABS DEAD By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 2 (JTA) -- Seven Palestinians were killed and scores injured in a weekend of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, coinciding with the observance of Rosh Hashanah in Israel.

At the same time, Israel outlawed Hamas, the Moslem fundamentalist group which has been at the forefront of the Palestinian uprising since its inception nearly two years ago.

Hamas is the second strongest element of the intifada after the Palestine Liberation Organization. It is most popular in the Gaza Strip where it was established.

Outlawing the group will not end its activities, but making it illegal will allow the authorities to arrest anyone on grounds of membership alone without having to prove involvement in any specific illegal act.

The leader of Hamas, Ahmad Yassin, and many other activists are presently in jail under administrative detention.

Three Soldiers Injured

Yassin was interviewed in his cell last week for the Israel Radio and Television Arabic language services, putting to rest rumors of his death.

Yassin used the interview to denounce the 10-point Egyptian plan Cairo has offered as the ground rules for Palestinian elections in the territories.

In the weekend skirmishes, five of the fatalities occurred in stone-throwing clashes with Israeli security forces. Three soldiers were injured.

Two Palestinians suspected of collaboration were beaten to death by fellow Arabs, the Israeli authorities said.

Nablus, the largest Arab town in the West Bank, was the focal point of violence over the weekend.

Two Arab youths who were dropping bricks from rooftops on patrolling Israeli soldiers were shot down.

Israeli sources claim that while the violence has escalated, morale is dropping among the Palestinian residents of the territories.

No Reprisals Against Moderates

They are feeling despair over the lack of a political solution and their endurance of hardship is weakening, the sources claim.

They attribute these developments to the new policy of the Israel Defense Force, which conducts pre-emptive raids on Arab villages and prolonged searches for suspects.

The Israeli authorities have relaxed in only two areas. They have reopened Arab schools and have given relative freedom to certain popular Palestinian leaders.

They include Faisal Husseini of East Jerusalem, who recently spent 18 months in administrative detention because of his association with the PLO.

In addition, Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem suffered no reprisals for his recent meeting with PLO chief Yasir Arafat.

Nor did Jamil el-Amle, the moderate mayor of an Arab village in the Hebron hills, whose meeting with Arafat reportedly took place with the consent of the Israeli authorities.

JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM THE USSR SETS A NEW RECORD, AS 8,442 LEAVE

NEW YORK, Oct. 2 (JTA) -- The gates of the Soviet Union opened wider last month than at any time in memory, unleashing the largest wave of Soviet Jews to emigrate in a single month.

A total of 8,442 Jews left the Soviet Union in September, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. That is the highest monthly figure recorded since the conference's Soviet Jewry Research Bureau began tabulating emigration statistics in 1968.

While the vast majority of the emigrants came to the United States, 1,042, or 12.3 percent of the total, arrived in Israel, a slight increase over the previous month. So far this year, 5,031 Soviet Jews have made aliyah.

Based on the numbers who have left so far this year, it is expected that 1989 will top 1979 as the benchmark year of Soviet Jewish emigration. In 1979, 51,320 Jews left the USSR. The cumulative total to date for 1989 is 41,886.

The September emigration figure is nearly double the July total and exceeds by nearly 2,000 the number for August, which until now had been the largest monthly figure ever.

One factor that helped swell the September total was the arrival on Sept. 28 of 1,356 Soviet Jews at Kennedy International Airport in New York. It was the largest group of Jewish refugees to arrive in the United States in a single day since the end of World War II.

The unprecedented airlift was designed to enable a large number of Soviet Jews to celebrate the Jewish New Year in complete freedom and reduce the crowds of emigres waiting near Rome for permission to enter the United States.

Long Lines At Embassy In Moscow

The massive arrival was geared to coincide with an Oct. 1 change in U.S. regulations governing the admission of Soviet citizens as refugees to the United States.

Those who wish to go to the United States, and not Israel, are no longer able to leave the Soviet Union on Israeli visas and then "drop out" and apply for American refugee status in Rome.

As of Sunday, those Soviet citizens seeking to live in the United States have had to apply directly at the American Embassy in Moscow. According to reports from the Soviet capital, the line Monday morning snaked around the embassy.

Soviet Jewry activists in this country are clearly excited about the massive emigration, what they dreamed of and agitated for in over 20 years of advocacy. But while recognizing progress, they speak of remaining problems.

Shoshana Cardin, chairwoman of the National Conference, welcomed "the substantial increase," but said in a statement, "We remain very much aware that serious problems still exist in Soviet emigration procedures."

She cited "the continued refusal of permission to certain long-term refuseniks."

The president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, Pamela Cohen, was delighted by the large numbers of emigres, but clearly worried about the new U.S. policy. "I almost feel this is the last train," she said in a telephone interview.

Cohen believes "the United States is really undermining its own human rights policies."

"I'm scared to death that at a time when we should be evacuating people, we're stuck with all kinds of bureaucratic delays," she said.

AS NEW REFUGEE POLICY TAKES EFFECT, DUTCH EMBASSY STOPS ISSUING VISAS

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 2 (JTA) -- The Dutch Embassy in Moscow has been issuing Israeli visas at the rate of 6,000 to 9,000 a month this year to Soviet Jews planning to emigrate.

But that practice ended Sunday, at least for the 90 percent who plan to go to the United States instead of Israel. The embassy will now issue visas only to those Soviet Jews intent on making aliyah.

The move is largely due to a U.S. policy change that, beginning Oct. 1, has required Soviet Jews and others seeking to enter the United States as refugees to apply at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

The Dutch Embassy has represented Israeli interests in Moscow since the Soviet Union severed diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967.

In recent years, it has issued visas only to those few hundred Jews able to get Soviet exit permits each year. But with the coming of glasnost, record numbers of Jews have been allowed to leave.

The Israeli visa section at the Dutch Embassy could be short-lived. Even if the Soviets do not immediately re-establish ties with Israel, they may soon allow the Israeli consular mission now in Moscow to issue visas on its own.

Meanwhile, the new U.S. rule requiring Soviet Jews wishing to immigrate to the United States as refugees to apply at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow will have no immediate effect on the backlog of emigres presently waiting near Rome.

13,500 Waiting Near Rome

"Changes are expected to be more apparent in spring or summer," according to an official at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which assists the emigres with temporary housing and other services.

According to the relief agency's figures, there are some 13,500 Soviet Jews waiting in Ladispoli and a dozen other towns outside Rome while the U.S. Embassy there processes their applications for refugee visas.

"There are another 3,500 in Vienna, plus another 20,000 to 25,000 in the pipeline who have their papers under the old system," the official said.

JDC predicts that "in the next couple of months, we'll be flooded with people coming out on the old system. Only when the backlog is cleared will we be able to see what impact the new procedure has here."

Until now, most Jews leaving the Soviet Union departed with Israeli visas but chose the United States as their destination on reaching Vienna. They were then sent to Rome, where the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society assisted with the paperwork and costs associated with coming to the United States.

Prior to last fall, the U.S. government automatically allowed all Soviet Jews to enter the United States as refugees. But as the number of Jews allowed to leave increased this year, the American authorities became more selective.

During the past year, they have been granting refugee status only to Jews who can prove they face persecution in the Soviet Union. About 19 percent of the applicants have been rejected.

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

**RIGHT-WING REPUBLICANS GAIN
IN WEST GERMAN LOCAL ELECTIONS**

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 2 (JTA) -- The extreme right-wing Republican Party made new inroads Sunday in local elections in North Rhine-Westphalia, West Germany's most populous state, much to the dismay of those who consider the party neo-Nazi.

The Munich-based party, headed by former SS official Franz Schoenhuber, did best in the largest cities.

In Cologne, the Republicans won 8 percent of the popular vote, taking seats in the city council formerly held by the Free Democratic Party, a member of the federal governing coalition.

In Dusseldorf, the state capital, the Republicans scored 6 percent, which gives them important leverage, considering the delicate balance of power there between the governing Christian Democratic Union and opposition Social Democratic Party.

Leaders of the mainstream parties in Dusseldorf and elsewhere promptly vowed never to enter coalitions with the Republicans. But observers wonder how long that resolve will last if the alternative is to relinquish power.

The Republicans followed a shrewd strategy, fielding candidates only in those localities where they could muster sufficient manpower and resources to build organizations to mobilize support.

Statewide, they did poorly, winning a mere 2.5 percent of the votes cast. But in most of the cities and towns they managed to win the 5 percent minimum required for seats in local legislatures.

They won 7.2 percent in Dortmund and 7.4 in Gelsenkirchen.

Appeal To Working-Class Voters

But the Republicans just barely missed entry into the city council of Bonn, the national capital. There, the party scored 4.9 percent of the popular vote.

To the surprise of many, the Republicans did better in urban localities than in the generally more conservative rural areas.

They were helped by an unimpressive turnout: 65 percent of the eligible voters, which is low by West German standards.

But other factors aided them as well. According to Johannes Rau, the popular prime minister of the state, the Republicans made the severe housing shortage a major campaign issue.

The party plays skillfully on fears of working-class Germans who may have to compete for housing and jobs with the influx of East German immigrants and ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe.

The Republicans have always campaigned on an anti-foreigner platform and on something vaguely called "democratically purified patriotism."

Rau conceded that they took votes at the expense of his own Social Democratic Party in Germany's largest state.

The North-Rhine Westphalia elections were part of a series of local contests that may forecast the outcome of national elections scheduled to take place in December 1990.

The latest opinion polls suggest the Republicans will do as well nationally as they have done locally, gaining the 5 percent needed for seats in the Bundestag, West Germany's parliament.

**UNESCO GOVERNING BODY CONSIDERING
'PALESTINE' REQUEST FOR ADMISSION**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 2 (JTA) -- Israeli diplomats are less optimistic than they were three months ago about quashing a bid by the Palestine Liberation Organization to obtain membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The UNESCO executive committee convened last week to consider the PLO's request that the "State of Palestine" be admitted as a full member to the organization.

The 51-member committee, which serves as UNESCO's governing board, is meeting here through Oct. 13 to set the agenda and draw up recommendations for the UNESCO General Conference, scheduled to convene in Paris from Oct. 17 to Nov. 16.

The PLO made its original bid for admission to UNESCO at a June meeting of the executive committee. The motion was introduced by seven Arab and African nations: Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Mauritania, Nigeria, North Yemen and Senegal.

But facing strong Western opposition and a U.S. threat to never rejoin UNESCO, the seven states watered down their request and agreed to resubmit it at the meeting now under way.

But delegates from the seven states have used the three-month recess to try to convince other Third World delegations to back the PLO bid. They argue that even if the bid were rejected, the United States would not rejoin UNESCO.

Secret Vote Possible

The United States quit UNESCO in 1985, protesting its anti-Western, anti-Israel stance and economic mismanagement. It has looked more favorably upon the organization, however, since the election two years ago of a new director general, Federico Mayor Zaragoza.

Mayor has been sympathetic to Israeli and Jewish issues and is now in a difficult position as organization head.

Western diplomatic sources say that the only move that could seriously stop the PLO offensive now would be an American pledge to rejoin UNESCO if the PLO bid were rejected.

But "we are a far cry from this," a Western observer said.

Diplomatic sources say that even if the executive committee were to recommend the PLO's admission, the bid might fail in the General Conference if a secret vote were taken.

They say that Western European delegates to the General Conference may undertake a legislative maneuver to make the expected vote on the PLO request tabulated by secret ballot.

Officials say many Third World nations would be more likely to vote against the PLO bid if their votes were kept secret.

TWO QUAKES SHAKE ISRAEL

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Oct. 2 (JTA) -- Two earthquakes shook northern Israel on Monday but caused no casualties or damage.

The first of the minor tremors reached 4.2 on the Richter Scale, according to the Israel Geophysical Institute. The second was weaker.

The epicenter was the sea bottom off the Lebanon coast facing Sidon and Tyre.