# DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

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## EARTHQUAKE CAUSES ONLY MINOR DAMAGE TO JEWISH BUILDINGS IN SAN FRANCISCO By Allison Kaplan

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NEW YORK, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Synagogues and other Jewish institutions in the San Francisco Bay Area sustained relatively minor damage as a result of the major earthquake that rocked the area Tuesday night, initial reports indicate.

Structural engineers examined synagogues and Jewish communal institutions in the San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose areas Wednesday to determine if congregants and staff members could enter safely.

Even those buildings located in badly struck areas escaped relatively unscathed, although they sustained some cracking from the quake, which measured 6.9 on the Richter scale.

"Several synagogues indicated a little bit of plaster falling from the ceilings, bookcases strewing books," said Doug Kahn, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties.

Reached by telephone, Kahn said that in addition to the synagogues, Jewish federation buildings in both San Francisco and Oakland had only superficial damage.

Kahn, along with most San Franciscans reached by telephone, focused Wednesday on the mounting toll of deaths and injuries from the earthquake, the vast majority of which occurred when a highway collapsed in the Oakland area.

"All in the Jewish community here, first and foremost, mourn the tragic loss of life," Kahn said. He added that it was still too early to learn the identities of the victims of the disaster.

Kahn said that as "shaken and devastated" as the community is, there is still a sense of hope and relief that the damage to homes and institutions had not been more extensive.

#### Ran And 'Kissed The Mezuzah'

Temple Sinai, which is located near where the highway collapsed, had a stained glass window broken during the quake, and had some plaster fall.

Temple Shearith Israel, half a mile from the Marina District of San Francisco, which suffered building collapses and a devastating fire, was not seriously damaged.

It was the second major earthquake the synagogue has survived. Built in 1904, the synagogue not only made it through San Francisco's 1906 earthquake, but served temporarily as the city's town hall and courthouse while the city recovered from its devastation.

Another historic synagogue that escaped damage, Temple Emanu-El, houses the congregation to which the respective owners of the Oakland Athletics and the San Francisco Giants both belong. The earthquake put a sudden halt to the third World Series game between the two Bay Area teams.

The old building housing the Israeli Consulate in downtown San Francisco also sustained some outside damage. But there were no injuries among the consulate's staff, said Consul Anna Azari.

When the quake hit Tuesday, some reporters at the Northern California Jewish Bulletin in San

Francisco were knocked off their chairs and, as instructed, took shelter under desks or door frames. The weekly paper was forced to suspend publication this week.

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A slight variation on the duck-and-cover procedure was reported by Rabbi Noach Vogel of the Chabad congregation in San Jose. "Every time there was an aftershock," he said, "we ran to the door post and kissed the mezuzah."

# An Offer Of Help From Israel

In Jerusalem, Israeli President Chaim Herzog and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir sent cables Wednesday to President Bush, expressing Israel's sympathy to those in the San Francisco area.

"Please accept on my behalf and on behalf of the people of Israel our heartfelt condolences on the tragic events in the earthquake in California," Herzog's cable read. "Our sympathy goes out to the bereaved families."

The mayor of Haifa, Arye Gurel, offered Mayor Art Agnos of San Francisco the aid of the Israeli disaster relief teams that helped earthquake victims in Soviet Armenia and Mexico. Haifa and San Francisco maintain a sister-city relationship.

In New York, Don Feldstein, associate executive vice president of the Council of Jewish Federations, said that help would be dispatched to the San Francisco Jewish community if such a need is determined.

Feldstein said that even if there are no serious, specifically Jewish needs, CJF may choose to act as a channel for donations for general disaster relief in the area. He said Wednesday that he had been deluged with calls from federations across the country offering their help to San Franciscans.

In some ways, there was more frantic concern about the impact of the earthquake outside California and overseas than among Bay Area residents themselves, said reporter Winston Pickett of the Northern California Jewish Bulletin.

"Television viewers keep seeing shots of the worst hit area over and over again," he said, "but actually, when you're in San Francisco, you see miles and miles without any damage at all. The quake damage was very scattered and capricious up and down Northern California."

(JTA correspondent Tom Tugend in Los Angeles contributed to this report.)

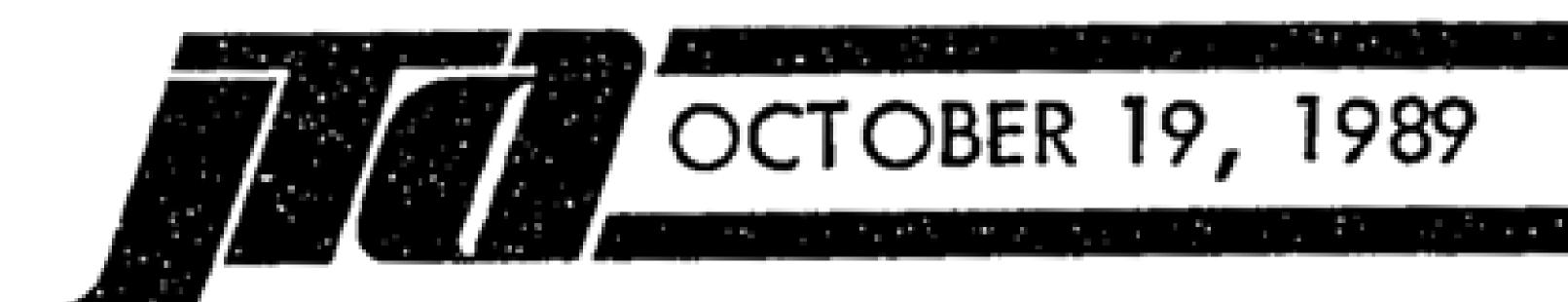
## NEWS ANALYSIS:

DESPITE CORDIAL BUSH-SHAMIR EXCHANGE, TENSIONS RISING BETWEEN U.S. AND LIKUD By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had what his aides described as a "very friendly" telephone conversation late Tuesday with President Bush.

But however cordial the exchange may have been, it apparently did not soothe American irritation over the Israeli premier's sharp remarks this week rejecting American and Egyptian efforts to promote an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Shamir surprised opponents and supporters alike Tuesday by telling Likud Knesset members that he would risk a confrontation with the United States sooner than negotiate with the



Palestine Liberation Organization.

He did stress that he does not want a confrontation with Israel's greatest ally and that the prospect of such a clash "worries" him.

But he insisted that the United States is trying to push Israel into negotiations with the PLO. "We will stand firm to the end. We have every right to refuse to talk to the PLO," Shamir declared.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler issued a sharply worded statement Wednesday calling those remarks "unhelpful, and we are disappointed."

But she emphasized at the same time that the Bush administration does not want a confrontation with Israel.

In fact, Tutwiler stressed that the administration is continuing to work for the success of Shamir's own proposal for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Neither White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater nor Tutwiler would reveal what was said in the 20-minute conversation between Shamir and Bush.

#### Baker And Arens Confer

But Shamir's aides in Jerusalem said the prime minister and president had agreed that direct contacts were useful to clarify their respective positions in advance of their scheduled White House meeting next month.

Tutwiler commented on another telephone conversation Wednesday, between Secretary of State James Baker and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

She said it dealt in its entirety with the U.S. proposal of a "framework" to bring about a dialogue between Israel and Palestinians. No mention was made of any looming confrontation.

Baker has suggested only that Israel, Egypt and the United States sit down to discuss the composition of a Palestinian delegation with which Israel would negotiate over its election plan.

But Shamir told the Likud Knesset members Tuesday that the present American peace effort is aimed at getting Israel to talk with a PLO-appointed delegation. That, he vowed, he would never agree to.

There is not a single element in the American political establishment that supports Israel's position, Shamir reportedly complained.

Meanwhile, Labor Party officials are challenging Shamir's tough stance against the American'proposals.

They are fearful that Shamir's defiant talk from Israel. could precipitate a crisis in relations with the United States at a time when Israel needs close American support to resolve its conflict with the Palestinians.

Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency Executive and a member of the Labor Party's ministerial forum, said Shamir himself is leading Israeli policy toward a collision with the United States.

Haim Ramon, chairman of the Labor Knesset faction, said the confrontation is not between Israel and the United States but within Israel itself.

Many political pundits are predicting the imminent collapse of the Likud-Labor coalition government.

While the Labor Party has endorsed Shamir's election plan, fundamental differences have arisen between the coalition partners over its terms and scope.

Shamir is scheduled to meet with President Bush on Nov. 15. He will also be attending the annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations.

Many Israeli and American Jews fear that a U.S.-Israel showdown at this time would dominate the American Jewish agenda, overshadowing the CJF conclave. American Jewish leaders could conceivably find themselves in the position of having to take sides in Israel's internal dispute.

## No PLO Talks Required

Shamir insists that he has not abandoned his plan for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

And in an interview published Wednesday in the Jerusalem Post, the prime minister stressed that he does not oppose American or Egyptian involvement as such in the peace process.

He feels, nevertheless, that Israel must reject the specific proposals being advanced by Washington and Cairo at this time, while welcoming their basic desire to assist the peace process.

Shamir said Israel would redouble its efforts to promote its own plan in light of the outright rejection of the American proposals by the PLO's Central Council in Baghdad this week.

The prime minister said Israel has ruled out a PLO role, because the PLO does not want peace. "The PLO wants a Palestinian state and they do not want a Jewish state, even though they proclaim otherwise," he said.

He said Americans and Europeans are "simply mistaken " if they think the Israeli plan requires talks with the PLO.

(JTA correspondent David Friedman in Washington contributed to this report.)

# WEST GERMANS DENY INVITING PLO By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry issued a swift denial Wednesday of reports that it was considering an invitation to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat to visit West Germany.

But Bassam Abu Sharif, one of Arafat's top advisers, insisted at a news conference that the matter was discussed.

Sharif was received Monday by Jurgen Sudhoff, political director of the Foreign Ministry.

It was the highest level of official contact with the West German government yet achieved by the PLO, and drew an expected sharp protest

PLO officials here said they "understood" Bonn's need to deny reports of a possible invitation to Arafat.

Nonetheless, one official said, "It is a fact. You just cannot undo what has been done."

# SETTLER QUESTIONED OVER STONING By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- A Jewish resident of Kiryat Malachi was arrested for questioning late Tuesday night in connection with the stoning of an Arab taxi earlier that evening.

According to Itim, the Israeli news agency, the taxi driver complained to police that his cab was stoned from a passing vehicle as he drove north from the Gaza Strip along the Kiryat Malachi-Ashkelon road. The driver provided a description of the vehicle, which led to the arrest of a 28-year-old Jew.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ARRESTS EX-NAZI ON EXTRADITION REQUEST BY W. GERMANY By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Bruno Karl Blach, an alleged Nazi war criminal living in Los Angeles, was arrested by the Justice Department Tuesday night following an extradition request issued by West Germany in late June.

The 69-year-old Blach has been accused by a West German district court of "having killed three persons in Austria en route from Wiener Neudorf to Mauthausen between April 2 and April 14, 1945, in a cruel manner and acting from base motives." Wiener Neudorf and Mauthausen were concentration camps.

The accusation was contained in a June 28 West German warrant for Blach's arrest. The district court in Duisburg said that "prosecution for murder is not subject to a statute of limitations" under West German law.

At Blach's arraignment Wednesday afternoon, the U.S. District Court for Los Angeles ordered him to be held without bail, according to a Justice Department source.

There will be a second hearing Monday on the question of bail. The actual extradition hearing will be held Dec. 5 in Los Angeles.

The Blach case marks the fourth time since World War II that the United States will conduct extradition proceedings against an alleged Nazi war criminal and marks West Germany's second extradition request to the United States.

Bonn also has a pending request with Argentina for the extradition of alleged Nazi war criminal Josef Schwammberger.

Since 1985, the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations had been trying to deport Blach, who was born to an ethnic German family in Czechoslovakia in 1919 and who immigrated to the United States from Vienna in 1956.

#### Extradition Will Take Precedence

In 1987, a U.S. immigration court found that Blach had served as a guard in the Nazi SS and as a dog handler at the Dachau concentration camp from 1940 to 1943, and at Wiener Neudorf, Austria, from 1943 to 1945.

Blach's appeal of the deportation order is still pending, but an extradition order "will take precedence over that," said the Justice Department source.

The U.S. court ordered Blach deported to West Germany, the country of which he is a naturalized citizen.

OSI would rather see him extradited than deported, since he would likely have the choice of which country he would be deported to, "and might not end up in Germany," the source added.

The other three Nazi extradition cases in postwar U.S. history were against:

- Hermine Braunsteiner-Ryan, who was extradited in 1973 to West Germany. She was sentenced in 1980 to life imprisonment, a sentence that she is still serving. She was convicted on multiple counts of murder as a guard at the Ravensbruck concentration camp.
- Andrija Artukovic of Surfside, Calif., who was minister of interior in the Nazi state of Croatia. In 1986, Artukovic was extradited to Yugoslavia, where he was convicted of mass murder and sentenced to death. He died in prison in 1988 while his appeal for clemency was pending.
  - \* John Demjanjuk of Cleveland, accused of

mass murder at the Treblinka death camp. He was denaturalized in 1981, extradited to Israel in 1986 and was convicted in 1988 by a Jerusalem court.

Demjanjuk's appeal of an Israeli death sentence is before the Israeli Supreme Court.

His appeal had been scheduled for November, but was delayed again until May, following charges by Yoram Sheftel, his lawyer, that OSI withheld documents requested by Demjanjuk's family under the Freedom of Information Act.

## BRITISH REPORT SHOWS NO EVIDENCE WALDHEIM MISTREATED BRITISH POWS The Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- A Defense Ministry inquiry has absolved Kurt Waldheim of responsibility for the mistreatment or execution of British prisoners of war, while he was a young intelligence officer serving with the German army in the Balkans during World War II.

But the report, released here Tuesday, did nothing to raise the estimation of Waldheim in the eyes of many members of Parliament and other officials.

They still regard the Austrian president and former U.N. secretary-general as a liar who falsified his wartime record and who at a minimum had knowledge of Nazi atrocities, if he did not participate in them directly.

Greville Janner, a Labor member of Parliament and secretary of the All Party War Crimes Group, said, "He is not criminally liable but he is certainly morally responsible and should never have been secretary-general of the United Nations or president of a decent country."

According to Conservative Robert Rhodes James, Waldheim was innocent of war crimes but guilty of deceiving the Austrian people and the world over his war record.

"He lied every time he was asked about his involvement in the war. He is a most contemptible man," Rhodes James said.

In Washington, Neal Sher, director of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, said the report would have no effect on the department's decision to bar Waldheim from entering the United States.

Waldheim's office in Vienna said the president reacted with "gratification" to the report and claimed it proved his innocence of other war crimes charges.

Considerable evidence was produced by the World Jewish Congress and from U.N. archives after Waldheim was elected president of Austria in 1986. The evidence indicated his certain knowledge of and possible complicity in the deportation of Greek Jews and atrocities against civilians in Yugoslavia.

Israel has said it would not replace its ambassador in Vienna as long as Waldheim is president.

The inquiry and report by Defense Ministry experts and historians, which took 20 months to complete, affirmed that Waldheim assisted the intelligence chief of German Group E headquarters in Salonika in 1944, but found no evidence that he was responsible for the brutal treatment of Allied POWs or the execution of British comman-

Nevertheless, in his position, he "would clearly have been aware of the existence of any Allied servicemen brought to Salonika for interrogation and he would have known that interrogations were taking place," the report said.

# SOVIETS TO ERECT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL THAT WILL INCLUDE REFERENCE TO JEWS By Hugh Orgei

TEL AVIV, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union will soon erect its first official Holocaust memorial identifying the majority of the victims as Jews and acknowledging the role played by local Nazi collaborators.

It will be set up this year in the Ponary forest near Vilna, where over 100,000 Nazi victims, most of them Jews, were buried in mass graves between 1941 and 1944, according to Aba Geffen, head of the Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel.

Geffen told the Jerusalem Post on Wednesday that until now, all Holocaust-related memorials in the USSR suppress the Jewish identities of Hitler's victims, referring to them as Soviet citizens or simply "victims of fascism." A blatant example is the memorial at Babi Yar in the Ukraine.

There are two memorial plaques in the Ponary forest, Geffen said, and both refer to the victims of the "Hitlerites."

A third plaque will be set up shortly by the Vilna authorities, Geffen said, with an inscription in Yiddish, Hebrew, Lithuanian and Russian.

It will say: "Here in the Ponary forest, from July 1941 to July 1944, the Hitlerite occupiers and their local accomplices destroyed 100,000 people, among them 70,000 Jews -- men, women and children."

Geffen stressed the importance of alluding to the Lithuanian collaborators' part in the wanton killings.

He noted that Lithuanian emigre groups in the West have claimed over the years that attacks by pro-Nazi Lithuanians were not aimed against all Jews but only those who served in the Soviet government imposed on Lithuania in 1940.

Actually, the pro-Nazi Lithuanian Activist Front started rounding up and killing Jews in late June 1941, between the time Soviet forces withdrew from the area and the German invaders arrived.

Later on, Lithuanian death squads hunted down and murdered Jews, Geffen said.

# ISRAEL FLOATS IDEA OF TOWING SWEET WATER FROM TURKEY By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Israel is considering importing sweet water from Turkey in huge plastic bags, in view of a possible fresh water shortage due to below normal precipitation in recent years.

The unusual idea has been discussed by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Israel Water Commission.

An Israeli plastics factory would fabricate immense semi-flexible bags, nearly 800 feet long and shaped like the hull of a ship.

They would be towed to Turkish ports, filled with potable water and towed back to Israel in a regular ferry service.

Since sweet water is lighter than salt water, the heavily laden bags would float at sea.

The estimated cost of the project is in the millions of dollars, but it would be less expensive than the construction of giant desalination units.

The idea is no more bizarre than one entertained by Saudi Arabia some years ago to tow polar icebergs to Saudi ports and pump off the water as they melted.

# RAIN ON JERUSALEM PARADE DOESN'T DAMPEN ANY SPIRITS By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Rain was no deterrent to the annual Jerusalem March, which got off to a wet start Wednesday, in high spirits nevertheless.

There were thousands of participants marching and singing, and thousands more lined the streets to cheer them.

Jassa Road, the city's main thoroughsare, was closed to traffic at 1:30 p.m., when the parade reached the center of town.

The festive event occurs during the intermediate days of Sukkot. There is a choice of two routes -- one of about 15 miles and another half that distance.

The parade is a mix of military and civilian marchers. Local shops, businesses and factories have a tradition of taking part. So do foreign groups, such as the Japanese Zionist Makoyo sect, Finnish Christian groups and a colorful group from the International Christian Embassy.

# COURT SAYS BOOK NOT ANTI-JEWISH By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- The Amsterdam Higher District Court has dismissed a criminal complaint that the autobiography of a Jew who converted to Christianity, published more than 100 years ago, is anti-Semitic.

In so doing, the court upheld an earlier ruling by the Lower District Court in Utrecht.

Both courts held that the public prosecutor failed to cite specific passages he considered offensive to Jews.

The legal action was initiated by STIBA, the Foundation for Combatting Anti-Semitism.

Suits were brought against the publisher and seller of "The Autobiography of Isaac Levinssohn," originally published in England in the early 1880s and translated into Dutch in 1885.

The translation was reprinted in 1976.

Levinssohn was a Polish Jew who converted to Christianity.

# PERES STILL HOSPITALIZED, BUT CHEERFUL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Vice Premier Shimon Peres was in a cheerful mood Wednesday in his bed at the Emek Hospital in Afula.

He was taken there for treatment of a urinary tract infection, after complaining Tuesday of nausea and dizziness while visiting Druse villages in Galilee.

The 66-year-old Labor Party leader and finance minister spoke light-heartedly in a telephone interview with Israel Radio from the hospital's urological ward.

"It's not bad to spend a day or so in the hospital," he said. "They don't bother you with questions about a depression or inflation.

"And they certainly can't blame me for the San Francisco earthquake. I was in bed here when it happened," Peres quipped.

Dr. Udi Cantor, the hospital's deputy medical director, said Peres would remain there for another day or so. He was running a high fever on his arrival and was pumped full of antibiotics.

The doctor said there was no connection between his present condition and the prostate surgery Peres underwent a year ago.