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NEWS ANALYSIS:

U.S. USING TELEPHONE DIPLOMACY
TO TRY TO SALVAGE PEACE PROCESS
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- U.S-Israeli peace diplomacy appears to be proceeding on two levels: one highly visible to the news media, the other behind the scenes via telephone.

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At the visible end of the spectrum, stalemate prevails. But operating behind the scenes over the weekend was a flurry of telephone conversations between the principals that indicates both sides are very anxious to keep the process alive.

Visibly, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir appeared unmoved by reports from Washington that Secretary of State James Baker may wash his hands of Middle East peace-making efforts unless some progress occurs soon.

Israel will not conduct its policy "with a stopwatch" was the tart response such reports elicited from circles close to Shamir.

But the prime minister's aides firmly denied a report that Shamir would consider postponing his visit to the United States next month because it might become the focus of American demands for Israeli concessions.

Shamir, they said, was planning to go ahead as scheduled. In fact, he expects that his Nov. 15 meeting with President Bush at the White House will settle whatever differences the trans-Atlantic phone calls fail to bridge.

Warning From The State Department

Yet the Bush administration publicly seems to be calling on Israel's coalition government to end its political infighting so that the peace process can advance.

"If the parties do not have the will to overcome their political constraints, we cannot produce progress by ourselves," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Friday in Washington.

Although Tutwiler has made such statements before, the reference to "political constraints" was new. She denied that it was aimed specifically at Israel.

But the comment was made against the background of sharp divisions between Likud and Labor on how to proceed with Shamir's initiative, and in the aftermath of Shamir's scathing criticism of U.S. mediation efforts last week.

The Shamir remarks have come to be seen as an attempt to reassure his hard-line Likud colleagues. At the same time, Shamir appears to be reassuring the Americans that he is genuinely committed to advancing the peace process.

Tutwiler said Baker telephoned Shamir on Thursday after receiving a letter from the prime minister that, in Tutwiler's words, "applauds our efforts and encourages us to keep them up."

Baker also spoke Friday by telephone with the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers, Moshe Arens and Esmat Abdel Meguid.

Tutwiler would give no details of those conversations Friday, though she implied they were part of Baker's efforts to meet Israeli and Egyptian concerns over his "five points" aimed at holding an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

Paradoxically, although Baker's "five points"

deliberately, have not been disclosed in Washington, the Israeli news media seem comfortably familiar with them.

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Knesset Plans Full Debate

Shamir objects vehemently to at least two of the points.

According to reports here, he is opposed to the proposed consultations between Egypt and the Palestinians over the composition of the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel. Such consultations, he believes, would give the Palestine Liberation Organization an indirect role.

Shamir also is said to want Baker to specify that the only admissable item on the agenda of the proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks will be the modalities of the Palestinian elections he proposes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Baker, for his part, reportedly has declined to make either of these amendments to his fivepoint paper. But he is willing to assuage Israel's concerns on these points by means of an accompanying letter to the Jerusalem government, reports here say.

The Americans have insisted repeatedly they are not trying to bring the PLO into the process through the back door.

"We have not asked, nor are we asking, the Israelis to negotiate with the PLO," Tutwiler said at the State Department briefing Friday.

But she denied that any new assurances were given to the Israelis. An Israeli newspaper report that the United States has given Israel a guarantee that it will not be asked to negotiate with the PLO was "not accurate," she said.

Shamir, meanwhile, blocked attempts by some ministers to raise diplomatic issues at the weekly meeting of the full Cabinet on Sunday.

Agudah Could Quit Coalition

Those matters are dealt with by a forum of the four ranking coalition ministers -- Shamir and Arens for Likud, and Vice Premier Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the Labor Party.

Formal decisions are made by the 12-member Inner Cabinet, consisting of six Likud and six Labor ministers.

But while the government is playing the matter close to the vest, the Knesset plans to air the diplomatic linens with a full-scale debate on Tuesday.

The government will have to respond to three no-confidence motions introduced by the Hadash Communist Party, the Citizens Rights Movement and the Center-Shinui Movement.

Meanwhile, the fate of the Likud-Labor coalition is believed to hinge on the ultimate outcome of the diplomatic activity.

So far, Labor has been amenable to American and Egyptian proposals, while the Likud bloc is adamantly opposed. Unless there is a change, pundits say Labor will break with Likud after Shamir's American trip next month.

A movement is also afoot in the Orthodox Agudat Yisrael party to drop out of the coalition. Some insiders here believe the Agudah is ripe to join a narrow government headed by Labor.

(JTA correspondent David Friedman in Wash-ington contributed to this report.)

ISRAEL SENDING ARENS TO BRUSSELS TO PREPARE FOR E.C. SINGLE MARKET By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- Israel is considering how to adapt to the changes that will occur when the Brussels-based European Community becomes a fully integrated European single market, little more than three years from now.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has summoned his country's envoys to the 12 E.C. member states for a brain-storming session starting here Monday night.

He is attending along with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu; Reuven Merhav, director general of the Foreign Ministry; and other senior officials.

The three-day meeting will be devoted to measures Israel might take in advance of the 1993 deadline when the E.C. countries remove all internal trade barriers.

The European Community is Israel's most important trading partner, apart from the United States. Its complete economic consolidation is being depicted by some as the creation of a "fortress Europe" that could exclude other nations.

Israel is anxious to strengthen both its economic and political ties with the community, which already acts as a single diplomatic entity when dealing with regional problems, such as the Middle East conflict.

Direct Aid To Palestinians

For instance, the E.C. Executive Commission announced Friday that the community will extend some \$5 million in direct aid to the Palestinian population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The funds, which are intended to improve the Palestinian population's economic and social conditions, will subsidize medical services, agriculture, the creation of data banks and industrial development.

The foreign ministers of the countries serving as current, immediate past and next rotating chair of the community constitute a diplomatic "troika" empowered to deal with Middle East problems.

Currently, that means the foreign ministers of France, Spain and Ireland. According to informed sources here, they will visit Israel, Egypt and possibly other Middle East countries next month and meet with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

the government has been too slow to respond to the imminent changes in the European Community.

But preparations are already under way. Merhav visited Brussels last August to plan the construction of a second Israeli Embassy here next year.

It will house a diplomatic staff that will deal exclusively with the European Community and its legislative body, the European Parliament, which is based in Strasbourg, France.

The new mission will be headed by Ambassador Avi Primor, Israel's present ambassador to Bus Station in Tel Aviv. According to police, the Belgium, who has been de facto envoy to the E.C.

Primor will be replaced as envoy to Belgium by Colette Avital, currently Israel's ambassador to Portugal, according to well-informed sources.

During his visit here, Arens will confer with Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens on the latest Middle East developments and efforts to revive the peace process. He is also expected to

meet with the European commissioner in charge of Mediterranean affairs, Abel Matutes of Spain.

On Wednesday, Arens will visit neighboring Luxembourg, also an E.C. member state, where he will be received by Grand Duke Jean and Prime Minister Jacques Santer.

He returns to Brussels on Thursday for a meeting with the Belgian Jewish community, still reeling from the shock of the Oct. 3 murder of its leader, Dr. Joseph Wybran.

Arens is scheduled to return to Israel on Thursday, accompanied by more than 100 Belgian personalities invited to Israel in a cultural exchange.

HUNT UNDER WAY FOR PALESTINIAN SUSPECTED OF MASS MURDER SPREE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- A manhunt is under way for a 32-year-old West Bank Palestinian suspected of committing the worst criminally motivated mass murders in Israel's history.

So far, seven bodies have been found in Tel Aviv and Jaffa -- five women and two men-all linked to drug-dealing and prostitution.

Police officials said the killings apparently stemmed from a dispute over money. But they do not entirely rule out a political motive as well, even though most of the victims were Arabs.

The suspect's name and description are being withheld for the time being.

But Police Inspector General David Kraus said at a news briefing over the weekend that as a consequence of the crimes, the police may review their policy of allowing Palestinians from the administered territories who have criminal records to stay overnight in Tel Aviv.

In general, Palestinians from the territories working in Israel require special permits from the security authorities to spend the night in Tel Aviv, even if their records are clean.

The murder suspect and his Arab victims had work and resident permits issued by the authorities.

The crimes were discovered Friday, after the resident of an apartment house in the Shapira quarter, a poor working-class neighborhood in southern Tel Aviv, complained to police of a stench emanating from a ground-floor apartment.

Four Bodies Found In Jaffa

On breaking into the apartment, police discovered the decomposing bodies of two women Some experts in Israel have complained that and a man, partially naked with black nylon cords around their necks. A police pathologist estimated they had been dead for 36 hours.

> One of the women was identified as Miriam Abbas, 32, a Christian Arab born in Acre, who was the mother of four children.

> The man was identified as Ali Khasein, 65, who lived in a stable in southern Tel Aviv. Police said Khasein was a known drug addict and pimp who was a friend of Abbas.

> Neighbors said the apartment was rented to an Arab prostitute who frequented the Central suspect removed all items from the apartment that might connect him with the victims.

> Nevertheless, clues found in that investigation led detectives Saturday morning to an apartment on Yehuda Hayamit Street in Jaffa, where they found four more naked bodies. Three of the victims were identified, all of them with police records.



NOVELIST LEON URIS DISCOVERS 'UNPLEASANTNESS' IN THE USSR By J.J. Goldberg The New York Jewish Week

NEW YORK, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- The celebrated novelist Leon Uris is winding up a three-city lecture tour of the Soviet Union that he describes as having "quite a bit of unpleasantness surrounding it."

"I think when we get out of the Soviet Union, we have to take a long, second look at what has happened," Uris said grimly in a telephone conversation Friday from Moscow. "I think that a lot of the news that the American Jewish community is dying to hear is just not true."

Uris, whose 1957 novel "Exodus" is widely credited with helping to spark the post-1967 revival of Jewish consciousness in the Soviet Union, went to the USSR under the sponsorship of B'nai B'rith International. He was accompanied by Dr. Michael Neiditch of the B'nai B'rith International staff.

Uris, who last visited Moscow in 1962, repeatedly refused to give details of the "unpleasantness" he encountered, apparently fearing surveillance. But he acknowledged that reported increases in anti-Semitism were "absolutely" a factor in his gloomy assessment.

He also said that during the course of his lecture tour, which covered Riga, Leningrad and Moscow, "our halls grew smaller and further out of the center, for reasons that were not clear and probably never will be. I think the audiences were kept small."

At the same time, Uris said the trip was deeply gratifying for him personally, because of the influence of his popular novel. For many years, typewritten copies of illegal translations of "Exodus" were passed throughout Russia from hand to hand.

Rebirth Of Culture In Riga

"It's the most tremendous experience a writer can undergo, to realize that his work has been that far-reaching," said Uris.

In much of the Soviet Union, said Uris, "Jewish life has been pretty well eradicated. We found a lot of intermarriage."

"We have seen a whole range of attitudes," added Neiditch, "ranging from apprehension and fear to extraordinary optimism in Riga," the capital of the Latvian republic.

"I think that what is happening in Riga is something the Jewish world has got to pay attention to," he said.

Uris described the Riga Jewish community as going through a "revolutionizing" process, with an active Jewish cultural center, senior choirs and a Jewish day school -- the first in the Soviet Union -- with 400 students in its first year.

"The most heartwarming moment in the trip was when we walked into the day school and the kids got up and sang to me in Yiddish and Hebrew. They were very happy, very open and very Jewish," he said.

The novelist said that after leaving Moscow, he would be visiting Poland and Hungary, under the sponsorship of the United Jewish Appeal.

Among the activities planned for him were a visit to Mila 18, the Warsaw street address immortalized in his novel of the Warsaw Ghetto, and participation in a ceremony in Budapest to mark the first legal publication of "Exodus" in an East-bloc country.

POLAND 'ON THE WAY' TO RESTORING TIES WITH ISRAEL, SAYS NEW PREMIER By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- The leader of Poland's first non-Communist government since World War II has affirmed here that Poland will re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel, though he could not say exactly when.

Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, on his first trip abroad since taking office, told a news conference last Friday that such a move was definitely expected.

"I cannot give you a precise date, but we're on the way," he said.

Poland severed diplomatic ties with Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War. Last year, the two countries established interest sections in Warsaw and Tel Aviv respectively, the lowest level of formal contact.

Mazowiecki said his government's position is that the rights of Israelis and Palestinians must be respected. He pointed out that Poland has good relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has an office in Warsaw.

"We are greatly interested in achieving peace in the Middle East and (having) all interested states and political forces choosing the road to a durable peace," he said.

"I think that both Jews and Palestinians are condemned to live alongside each other (and) both sides have the right to be equally recognized," Mazowiecki added.

Will Help With Convent Dispute

The fact that Poland is beginning to resolve deep political conflicts gives hope that progress can be achieved in solving other political conflicts, such as the Middle East, the Polish premier said.

He acknowledged, however, that the Middle East conflict is deeper and of longer standing than the one in Poland.

Mazowiecki also said his government would do whatever it could to help resolve the conflict over a Carmelite convent on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp in Poland.

"But naturally, this is not a government-to-government question," he said.

Nevertheless, the prime minister cited as an important step the Vatican statement signed last month by Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, president of the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with Judaism.

The statement affirmed that the nuns should be relocated in accordance with an agreement signed in 1987 by four European cardinals and world Jewish leaders.

HOSPITAL STAY FOR PERES EXTENDED By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- Vice Premier Shimon Peres will be hospitalized several days longer than originally announced, for continued treatment of a urinary tract infection.

The 66-year-old Labor Party leader was to have been discharged over the weekend from the Emek Hospital in Afula, where he was admitted on Oct. 17. But he experienced breathing difficulties Friday and spent several hours in the respiratory intensive-care unit.

Dr. Udi Cantor, the hospital's deputy medical director, announced Saturday that Peres would stay in the hospital until midweek.

ISRAELI LAWMAKERS TRY TO MOBILIZE SUPPORT FOR POLLARDS ON CAPITOL HILL By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- Two members of the Israeli Knesset are trying to get Congress involved in re-evaluating whether Jonathan and Anne Pollard received justice when they were sent to prison respectively for espionage and illegal possession of classified documents.

But the two Israeli lawmakers, Geula Cohen of the far-right party Tehiya and Edna Solodar of the center-left Labor Party, have had little success in persuading American Jewish leaders to

join their crusade.

Cohen and Solodar, representing the 71 Knesset members who have formed a Pollard lobby, met in Washington last week with 13 members of Congress to help mobilize support on Capitol Hill for the Pollards' release from prison.

Cohen said in an interview that the purpose of their visit was "to try to start a nucleus of a committee for the Pollards" among their American legislative counterparts.

The trip to Washington, on Oct. 17 and 18, followed visits the two Israeli legislators made to the couple in their respective federal prisons.

Jonathan Pollard is serving a life sentence at a maximum-security prison in Marion, Ill., for spying for Israel. His wife is serving two concurrent five-year sentences at the Danbury Federal Prison Camp in Connecticut for being an accessory to possession of classified documents.

Cohen said that she was encouraged by the response from the 13 members of Congress with whom she and Solodar met.

"Many were ready to rethink the Pollard affair," she said. "Time is healing not only wounds but fears."

Charge Of Anti-Semitism

Cohen said the United States should take a second look at how much damage to U.S. security was caused by Jonathan Pollard's delivery of classified documents to the Israeli government as well as the role ethnic prejudice played in his trial.

She said that she believed Pollard's sentence was vastly unfair and disproportionate compared with previous spy cases in the United States.

She also charged that anti-Semitism on the part of then Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger could have had an impact on the sentences.

An aide to Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.) said the congressman expressed his interest in "participating in a re-evaluation of the case."

Other members of Congress who met with Cohen and Solodar include: Reps. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.), Dan Burton (R-Ind.), Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.), as well as Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah).

Hatch reportedly told the Israelis that the congressional task force they were seeking would more easily be formed if the organized American Jewish community was "100 percent" behind it.

In that regard, Cohen called on the American Jewish organizations to follow the Knesset's lead in advocating for the Pollards and to "put pressure" on Congress to launch an investigation of the Pollard case.

"Our message to the Jews here is that they have to break the barrier of fear." Cohen said. "It's time, after four years, to look at (the case) in proportion."

But several representatives of major American Jewish organizations who serve on an ad hoc

committee on the Pollards said such action is not on American Jewry's agenda.

"Anything that has to do with the Pollard case between the Israelis and the Americans has to be worked out between the Israelis and the Americans," said Jerome Chanes of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, which staffs the ad hoc committee.

Against Swap With Terrorists

Phil Baum of the American Jewish Congress, who chairs the committee, stressed the panel's sole mandate is to monitor the Pollards' treatment in prison, not the justice of their sentence.

"This is a matter that has to do with the merican justice system" Raum said

American justice system," Baum said.

Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, echoed Baum and Chanes, saying that it is not the place of American Jews to advocate for the formation of a congressional task force.

However, he added that if a congressional investigation of the Pollards eventually took place, "it would be interesting to see what they would discover."

Reich said that if definite evidence of anti-Semitism were to emerge in the documentation of the Pollard case, "there would be a howl of protest by the American Jewish community."

Cohen and Solodar lavished praise on Jonathan Pollard's attitude and disposition, after visiting him in prison. They described him as "brilliant" and a true "lover of Israel."

The Knesset members said Pollard does not blame Israel for his predicament and that he still yearns to make aliyah. He spoke with them about settling in Mitzpe Ramon, in the Negev desert.

They said he told them he would refuse to take part in any sort of prisoner exchange that would involve the release of terrorists who could threaten Israel.

"I don't want Israel to pay for my freedom with things that will endanger its security," they quoted him as saying.

A HOLIDAY OF TANKS AND TORAHS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 22 (JTA) -- The sacred mingled with the profane Saturday night in Tel Aviv's Malchei Israel Square, where observant Jews and their children gathered with festive flags topped by apples to celebrate Simchat Torah.

The celebrants, who marched with Torah scrolls during the day for the "second hakafot," mingled with dozens of tanks and pieces of heavy equipment displayed in the large municipal square during the Sukkot week by the Israel Defense Force Armored Corps.

Soldiers helped the youngsters climb up onto the steel monsters to enable them to wave their flags from a higher vantage point.

In general, fewer sukkot than usual were to be seen in Tel Aviv this year, and by Sunday, the end of the festival in Israel, heads of families were already dismantling the outdoor booths.

Also this year, fewer observant Jews were seen walking through the streets bearing the traditional lulav and etrog, even though they were on sale, for the first time, at supermarkets.

Religious circles suggested that fewer sets of the "Four Species" were sold this year, because the first day of Sukkot, at which special lulav blessing ceremonies are recited, fell on the Sabbath, when lulavim are not carried to synagogue.