

**PERES, OUT OF HOSPITAL, QUESTIONS
LIKUD RESERVATIONS ABOUT U.S. PLAN**

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Vice Premier Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, walked out of the Emek Hospital in Afula a well man Monday and promptly criticized his Likud coalition partners for insisting that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker alter his five-point plan for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Peres, who had been hospitalized for nearly two weeks with an acute infection of the urinary tract, told reporters he saw no need to ask Baker to change or amend his proposals.

"Israel has to accept Baker's five points clearly," Peres said, adding, "We have to stop scaring ourselves."

He stressed that "only part of Israel" has demanded changes, meaning the Likud half of the government.

"In reality, Israel has not rejected the five points, nor has she accepted them, so actually anyone who expresses a view 'in the name of Israel' only expresses his own view," Peres said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens of Likud have agreed in principle to Baker's plan.

But they demand iron-clad guarantees that Israel will not have to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization and that the agenda of the talks be confined exclusively to the mechanics of Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Peres hinted that his coalition partners may be afraid to sit down with Palestinians. "If talks will be held with the Palestinians, they will arrive with their demands, and we will arrive with ours."

"But there is no reason in the world why we should have to accept their demands," he said.

Peres, who was stricken two weeks ago while touring northern Israel, admitted he had been seriously ill. "The doctors had some difficult moments, and at times I saw that they were worried, more worried than I was," he said.

**TAKING MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN MIDEAST,
E.C. LEADERS PLAN VISIT TO REGION**

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- The European Community is embarking on a more active role in the Middle East peace process.

But while talks with Arab leaders have been set, there is no agenda yet with Israel.

The foreign ministers of France, Spain and Ireland will visit Tunisia on Nov. 11 on behalf of the 12-member E.C., for exploratory talks with Chedli Klibi, secretary-general of the Arab League, and a meeting with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

They fly to Egypt on Nov. 12 for talks with President Hosni Mubarak.

The three foreign ministers comprise the E.C.'s diplomatic "troika" dealing with the Middle East.

They are Roland Dumas of France, current chairman of the E.C. Council of Ministers; the immediate past chairman, Francisco Fernandez Ordonez of Spain; and Gerard Collins of Ireland,

who will replace Dumas in the rotating office on

Jan. 1. A visit to Israel is on their agenda, but no date has been fixed. That has led to reports that Israel is reluctant to receive the E.C.'s peace mission.

Such speculation has been fueled by the fact that Jerusalem's relations with the E.C. have been strained since the start of the Palestinian uprising nearly two years ago. The Europeans often have been critical of Israeli measures against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mitterrand Proposal On Agenda

When Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was in Brussels last week, E.C. officials made clear to him that the community's economic relations with Israel are linked to developments in the peace process.

The E.C. supports the idea of an international conference for Middle East peace under U.N. auspices, which is strongly opposed by Israel. But Arens has dismissed reports of Israeli hesitancy about a visit from the three European foreign ministers.

Officials said that busy travel schedules for Arens and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir are the reason why a firm date could not be set. Shamir is scheduled to visit the United States in mid-November.

The E.C. "troika" is expected to discuss with Klibi the recent proposal of French President Francois Mitterrand for an E.C. conference, to be held in Paris in December with participation of the 22 Arab League member states and the PLO.

Such a conference, by its very nature, excludes Israel.

The E.C. ministers are also expected to talk with Egyptian President Mubarak about his offer to host an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo, and about his differences with Israel over the plan, which the Europeans hope they can help bridge.

**ARAB WHO OVERTURNED EGGED BUS
GETS 16 LIFE SENTENCES AND MORE**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- A Palestinian from the Gaza Strip received 16 life sentences Monday on 16 counts of murder -- one for each of the people who died when he seized the steering wheel of an Egged bus on July 6, forcing it to crash into a ravine outside Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem District Court meted out an additional 20-year prison term for the attempted murder of those who survived the carnage.

The defendant, Abdul Mahdi Ghanem, showed no remorse.

Jerusalem District Prosecutor Uzi Hasson told the judge, "Here is a man who was created in the image of God. Was he really?"

Ghanem, a resident of the Nuseirat refugee camp, also had words for the judge. "You, the Israelis, are responsible. I merely vindicated the wounding of my friend, Raduan, who was wounded in the intifada," he said.

Ahuva Pahima, sister of one of the survivors, thought Ghanem deserved the death penalty. "I felt like killing him," she told a reporter.

POLICE OFFICER'S MURDER UNCOVERS CRIME RING AND FORTIFIED COMPOUND

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- The shooting death of a young police officer here Saturday has given Israelis an inside look at an Arab crime syndicate that has more the makings of the Chicago mafia than anything one might expect to find in Israel.

The officer was killed Saturday morning in a shootout with an Arab underworld kingpin who murdered two family members, then took his own life, in a heavily fortified compound on the Tel Aviv-Jaffa city boundary.

The officer was identified Monday as Inspector Ofer Cohen, who, at age 30, had served four years as head of the detective intelligence section of the Jaffa police force and was regarded as an outstanding officer with a brilliant future.

Cohen was buried Monday in the police section of the Kiryat Shaul military cemetery outside Tel Aviv.

He left a wife and 5-month-old daughter.

His parents, who were vacationing in the United States when he was killed, had to be traced and returned to Israel. That explains why police initially withheld the slain officer's identity.

His suspected killer was identified as Mohammed Ahmed Snir, 50, who was wanted for the attempted murder of an underworld rival last year.

He had just been released from prison, after serving a sentence for gangland car bombings.

According to the police, Snir murdered his brother, Sayed Abu Snir, 51, and his nephew, Osman Snir, 26, Saturday. Then, after fatally shooting Cohen, he shot himself in the head.

Police said he left a suicide note.

Cohen had been leading a squad of police trying to break into the Snir compound when he was hit by automatic fire.

The large police force, including an anti-terrorist squad, was investigating reports of shots fired in a complex of seemingly ramshackle buildings in an old orange grove owned by the Snir family, a clan suspected of murder and drug trafficking.

Mirrors, Barbed Wire And Trenches

What they found was a bizarre series of fortifications bespeaking fear and paranoia. But bulldozers have failed to unearth the secret caches of weapons and drugs the police were expecting to find.

The Snir family "home" was an illegally built compound surrounded by three rings of walls, each nearly 15 feet high, made of steel barrels and topped by electrified barbed wire carrying high voltage.

There was an electrically activated dummy, which police suspect was used to draw hostile fire from intruders. Doors into the compound were of 4-inch-thick steel.

The buildings were connected by communications trenches. All approaches were covered by angled mirrors, enabling occupants to see around corners without exposing themselves.

Inside the buildings were windowless rooms that showed signs of use as dungeons, torture chambers and "drumhead courtrooms," police said.

They also found a network of illegally laid water pipes, electric and telephone lines to serve the extensive Snir clan.

The Tel Aviv municipality has started razing the buildings, which were constructed in the compound without a license. The city is also trying to trace the real owners of the property, which the Snirs have claimed for decades.

Neighbors said Mohammed Snir fortified the compound after an anonymous intruder murdered one family member and crippled seven others in 1975. Most of the male members of the clan have either been murdered or have fled abroad.

KNESSET MEMBERS VISIT BEIT SAHUR

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force relented slightly Monday and permitted seven left-wing Knesset members to enter the embattled West Bank village of Beit Sahur.

The residents, mainly Christian Arabs, have been on a tax strike for more than a month. In an attempt to end the bloodless revolt, the Israeli authorities have refused to allow anyone to leave or enter the town without the army's permission.

The seven Knesset members were Avrum Burg, Arieh (Lova) Eliav and Amir Peretz of the Labor Party; Yossi Sarid and Dedi Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement; Haim Oron of Mapam; and Avraham Poraz of the Center-Shinui Movement.

They were allowed to visit the town after promising not to disclose to the news media the content of their conversations with Beit Sahur residents.

KNESSET WON'T DISCIPLINE ZE'EVY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- The Knesset House Committee decided Monday not to discipline Knesset member Rehavam Ze'evi of the far right-wing party Moledet for a racist remark he is alleged to have made during a stormy session of the parliament on Oct. 24.

The committee rejected a complaint by Yossi Sarid of the leftist Citizens Rights Movement to punish Ze'evi for saying in the chamber that one Jewish life is worth 1,000 Arab lives.

Ze'evi, who heads Moledet's two-member Knesset faction, said, "For every Jew, 1,000 Arabs should pay."

He later claimed that what he meant was that many Arabs should pay for every Jew hurt in the Palestinian uprising. The committee accepted his explanation.

ISRAELI FILM WINS SPANISH PRIZE

By David Kantor

MADRID, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- An Israeli film, "Hakayitz shel Aviya" (The Summer of Aviya) won first prize at the International Film Festival in Valladolid on Monday.

The movie, which stars 12-year-old actress Kaipo Cohen, was runner up at the Berlin Film Festival last February.

The story, based on the true life experience of Gila Almagor, who wrote the script and played a featured role in the movie, is about a child raised by a mother who is deeply affected by her Holocaust experiences and becomes mentally ill.

Almagor was on hand to accept the award in the absence of film director Eli Cohen.

It is the first time an Israeli movie has been given wide public exposure in Spain.

SHAMIR PREDICTS 1 MILLION JEWS WILL BE LEAVING THE SOVIET UNION

By David Landau and Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir predicted Sunday that about a million Jews will leave the Soviet Union as a result of the relaxation of Soviet emigration restrictions.

He did not say over what time period the mass exodus might take place, but he expressed hope that most of the emigres would come to Israel.

Shamir spoke to a delegation of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, headed by Sylvia Hassenfeld, JDC's president.

The government has been busy rounding up volunteers to assist the new immigrants if and when the expected influx begins.

The social absorption department at the Ministry of Immigration and Absorption says it has an active file of more than 2,000 names of volunteers.

In addition, the department's head, Arieh Korath, has written to all immigrant associations in Israel, asking for updated lists of people who would volunteer.

According to Korath, the volunteers will play an important role in the successful absorption of immigrants. They will accompany the newcomers through the first stages of acclimatization in their new country.

They will work as "contact people" with banks, schools, the Histadrut health-care agency and other giant bureaucracies that often overwhelm new immigrants with red tape.

Ladispoli Center To Be Disbanded

The JDC delegation is visiting Israel to mark the worldwide relief agency's 75th anniversary.

Hassenfeld told reporters here that the Soviet Jewish transit center at Ladispoli, near Rome, will be disbanded soon and the emigres there would all receive U.S. visas.

Since Oct. 1, Soviet Jews have been able to obtain U.S. refugee visas only at the American Embassy in Moscow. Those who leave the Soviet Union on Israeli visas can no longer "drop out" in Vienna and pick up their American papers in Rome. All of those holding Israeli visas are required to go to Israel.

Hassenfeld said JDC is also helping Jews who remain in the Soviet Union by establishing community centers, libraries and synagogues there.

In addition, JDC is working with non-Jewish communities in Israel. It will soon open a day-care center for the elderly in the Druse village of Jatt, according to Dr. Yitzhak Brick, head of its organization for the elderly.

JDC already finances a day-care center for the elderly in the Israeli Arab village of Taiba, jointly with Mifal Hapayis, the Israeli national lottery fund.

SHARANSKY MAY VISIT USSR

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Natan Sharansky, who spent nine years in the Soviet Gulag for alleged spying, may soon revisit the land of his birth.

The Soviet Jewry activist and former "prisoner of Zion" said he has been invited to attend the founding in Moscow, in December, of the Soviet Jewish Confederation, an umbrella body of

all Jewish cultural organizations in the Soviet Union.

On Monday, he told Ma'ariv he was considering accepting the invitation if it could help the Jewish revival, though he has no nostalgia for his native land.

He assumed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could make political capital from his visit. But that had to be balanced against the benefit which would accrue to the Soviet Jewry movement, Sharansky explained.

He said he doubted the Soviet authorities would refuse him an entry visa, even though he had been convicted of spying for the United States.

He was released in a spy exchange in February 1986. The Kremlin now seeks to distance itself from the past, Sharansky said.

He noted that another key human rights activist, Yuri Orlov, was recently allowed to visit the Soviet Union, even though the Soviet authorities once branded him an enemy of the state.

THE HOUSE OF ROTHSCHILD MAKES EMOTIONAL RETURN TO FRANKFURT

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- The House of Rothschild returned to Frankfurt last week.

The world-famous Jewish banking family has set up shop, after an absence of 88 years, in the city where its financial empire originated nearly 200 years ago, now West Germany's financial center.

"It is not without emotion that we come back to Frankfurt," said Baron David de Rothschild. Those emotions were shared by the civic authorities.

"We are happy they came back here, and we certainly hope they will like it," declared Mayor Volker Hauff, after receiving Rothschild family members at his office for a lengthy meeting.

Baron Elie Rothschild, head of the bank's Zurich branch, said it was "unthinkable" not to be represented in Frankfurt.

The business was opened in Frankfurt's Judengasse in 1796 by Mayer Amschel Rothschild.

The patriarch of the family, Isaac son of Elchanan, came to Frankfurt in 1530. In 1567, he and his wife moved into a house with a red shield -- Rothschild -- on the door, and the name stuck.

The family business left Frankfurt in 1901 to concentrate the family's German activities in imperial Berlin. The Rothschilds had also become a major financial force in Paris and London.

They stayed away through two world wars, the Nazi era, Germany's defeat and economic revival.

But Frankfurt cannot now be ignored by a major banking house. It will become the financial hub of an economically integrated Europe by 1992.

Nevertheless, the Rothschilds initially will only "test the market."

The family decided to establish a small branch in Frankfurt, with a staff of three employees headed by Erich Stromeyer, a German banker. Four additional persons may be hired in the next two years.

According to family members, the main task of the new branch would be to study the market and consider opportunities for further, deeper penetration.

According to David de Rothschild, it stands a good chance of success, despite fierce competition from the giant German banks.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: ABORTION RIGHTS ISSUE GALVANIZING JEWISH WOMEN'S GROUPS IN AMERICA

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Jewish women, ranging from blue-jeaned college students to well-heeled Hadassah members, are among the thousands planning to gather in Washington and in state capitals around the country for the "Mobilize for Women's Lives" rally on Nov. 12.

Women's groups comprise nearly half of the 14 Jewish advocacy, social welfare and religious organizations that have signed on in support of the rally, reflecting the overwhelming number of American Jews who support a woman's right to choose whether to terminate a pregnancy.

The organizations endorsing the Nov. 12 coalition range from Jewish women's groups that have been behind the pro-choice cause for decades, such as the National Council of Jewish Women, to relative newcomers to the issue, such as Hadassah.

Hadassah, by far the largest and best-known American women's Zionist organization, issued its first pro-choice statement in 1981. An "action alert" issued at its convention in August encouraged Hadassah chapters to join abortion-rights advocacy coalitions and educate their communities about the Jewish religious traditions regarding pregnancy and abortion.

Hadassah's stance, and its participation in the upcoming pro-choice rally, along with that of NA'AMAT USA, B'nai B'rith Women, Women's American ORT, and the women's arms of the Reform and Conservative movements of Judaism, represent the result of a gradual evolution among the ranks of American Jewish women's groups.

91 Percent Of Jewish Women

These organizations, which traditionally have tended to focus on support of charitable works in Israel, are now vocal on a number of women's domestic issues and, most vigorously, the abortion question.

Longtime Jewish feminist Susan Weidman Schneider, editor of the Jewish feminist magazine *Lilith* and author of "Jewish and Female," sees a distinct contrast between the activism of mainstream Jewish women's groups today and their earlier approaches toward issues like reproductive choice.

Many of feminism's early leaders were Jewish, and over the years, Jewish women, like the vast majority of Jews, have consistently supported reproductive freedom.

A 1985 study by B'nai B'rith Women found that 91 percent of Jewish women believed that every woman who wants an abortion should be able to obtain one, as opposed to only 56 percent of non-Jewish women.

Yet, Schneider recalls that in the 1960s and 1970s, there was reluctance among the ranks of Jewish women's organizations to mobilize their membership on the abortion issue.

But today, "the issue of reproductive rights is not seen as scary and as fringelike," Schneider said.

Officials of the women's groups said that a great deal of the spur for their activism was pressure from the grass-roots membership.

Aileen Cooper, director of programming and public affairs for B'nai B'rith Women, said its involvement in the abortion question did not come from the initiative of its leaders; rather, it stem-

med from concern expressed from its membership nationwide. "And like all organizations, we have to be responsive to our membership," she said.

Shirley Blumberg of Gaitersburg, Md., who serves as Hadassah's lay representative in Washington, agreed that it was the grass roots that pushed the pro-choice issue.

Blumberg's background is typical of the traditionally active "Hadassah lady." Involved in the group for 40 years, she has visited Israel frequently and has been active on Zionist issues.

Concern About Membership Rolls

But she is equally concerned about reproductive rights. She represents Hadassah at national pro-choice strategy meetings. At last April's massive pro-choice rally in Washington, her husband and grown daughter joined her in carrying the Hadassah banner.

She speaks proudly of her daughter's generation, which is active in the pro-choice battle through Hadassah. "Our young women, juggling professions and families, are making time for this," Blumberg said.

Like all Jewish organizations, the women's groups are greatly concerned about their membership rolls, especially as they face a shrinking pool of women who have time available for the volunteer activities to which they have been traditionally oriented.

In addition, the women's groups must contend with the fact that previously all-male organizations, like B'nai B'rith International, are not only opening their doors to women, but actively recruiting them as members in order to boost their own numbers.

Hadassah President Carmela Kalmanson can point to concrete examples of the abortion issue's power to attract interest among Jewish women.

In Atlanta last August, after Kalmanson was interviewed about her pro-choice stance by the local CBS affiliate, a young woman who worked at the television station approached her and said, "I'm Jewish and I want to be involved in this." Kalmanson reported that the woman has since joined Hadassah's Atlanta chapter.

Kalmanson said she does not fear losing her older, more traditional constituency, over the issue. While "there is an opportunity and a danger" in taking stands on any controversial topic, she said, the potential benefits outweigh the risks in speaking out on abortion.

A Wide Range Of Groups

Likewise, Bernice Balter, executive director of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, says the abortion issue has inspired women to become more active in synagogue sisterhoods. "Those sisterhoods active on social issues have to be more attractive to their members than those that don't," she said.

The pro-choice stand cuts across traditional divides in the Jewish community, bringing together groups that sometimes oppose each other on religious and Israel-related issues.

The wide range of Jewish groups endorsing the Nov. 12 rally include the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, B'nai B'rith Women, Hadassah, Jewish Labor Committee, National Council for Jewish Women, National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, New Jewish Agenda, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, United Synagogues of America, Women's American ORT and the Women's League for Conservative Judaism.