

**RESTORATION OF TIES WITH ETHIOPIA  
RAISES HOPE OF NEW EXODUS OF JEWS**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- Israelis were surprised and pleased over the weekend by Ethiopia's sudden decision to restore diplomatic ties with Israel, which it broke 16 years ago.

Attention focused immediately on the estimated 18,000 Jews still living in Ethiopia and the chances of their speedy departure for Israel.

The unexpected announcement Friday in Addis Ababa followed a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his Ethiopian counterpart at United Nations headquarters in New York several weeks ago.

The decision was conveyed Friday morning to Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Yohanan Bein, by the Ethiopian ambassador.

In New York, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations immediately welcomed the step, saying it "can only benefit both countries and the cause of international peace."

The conference expressed hope that the detente would expedite the reunification of Ethiopian Jews with their families in Israel.

Ethiopia severed diplomatic ties with Israel, as did all but four African countries, in October 1973, as a gesture of solidarity with Egypt in the Yom Kippur War.

It is the 11th country to restore them. Knowledgeable sources ascribe the decision to increasing pressures on the Addis Ababa government from various insurgencies.

They say the Ethiopian president, Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, has been adopting an increasingly pro-Western stance in hope of winning economic support and logistical assistance in his civil war.

**No Sudden Exodus Expected**

The Ethiopian emigre community in Jerusalem was jubilant at the news Sunday. But its leaders urged the Israeli government to make any further progress in bilateral relations with Ethiopia contingent upon the exodus of Jews remaining there.

Informed sources said such an exodus would get under way only gradually and without fanfare. They do not expect a policy statement on this issue by the Ethiopian government, which, they note, has close ties with many Arab countries.

Nevertheless, the head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, Uri Gordon, said Saturday that new absorption centers would be needed to house the expected stream of immigrants.

The Ethiopian influx would coincide with a flood of Jews from the Soviet Union, if present expectations materialize.

The government and Jewish Agency have agreed on a joint \$2 billion program to absorb Jews from the Soviet Union. Additional monies obviously will need to be found for the Ethiopian newcomers.

The Organization of Ethiopian Immigrants here has been pressuring the government to help their families still in Ethiopia, most of them in the war-torn Gondar region.

Only two weeks ago, the organization published an open letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir charging that Israel "was doing nothing while their brethren were being oppressed."

The organization claimed that about 25 percent of the Jews remaining in Ethiopia have been killed in pogroms and that hundreds of men have been forcibly recruited into the army, leaving their families without any source of income.

There are about 16,000 Ethiopian Jews in Israel at present. All but a handful arrived during the winter of 1984-85 in a series of clandestine airlifts that eventually became known as "Operation Moses."

Many young Ethiopians who made it to Israel arrived without their immediate families. About 30 percent of the Ethiopian families here have only one parent. According to exerts, their anxiety over their parents' fate has made it difficult for them to adjust to Israeli life.

Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency Executive, expressed hope Saturday that the resumption of Israeli diplomatic ties with Ethiopia "will end the human tragedy that split families and tore parents from their children."

**ISRAEL'S INNER CABINET VOTES 9-3  
TO ACCEPT BAKER'S FIVE-POINT PLAN**  
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- The floundering peace process seemed to get back on track Sunday, when Israel's Inner Cabinet voted 9-3 to accept U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point proposal for a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

Israel's acceptance was made contingent "on the understanding" that the United States would soon provide assurances that would rule out any Israeli negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The decision represents a slight retreat by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir from his earlier insistence that Israel's acceptance be conditional on Baker's plan meeting its concerns.

But it probably assures Shamir a White House meeting with President Bush later this month. And it is likely to keep the shaky Likud-Labor coalition government intact, at least for a while longer.

Shamir presented the new Israeli position to the Inner Cabinet as a compromise between Likud and Labor. It is "better to compromise at home than to make concessions abroad," he told his colleagues, indicating his hope that the unity government has a new lease on life.

The compromise was the result of two meetings between Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, representing Likud, and Vice Premier Shimon Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, for Labor.

They met Friday, at Peres' home in northern Tel Aviv, and on Sunday, in Jerusalem.

A key role was played by Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein, who was given the task of formulating the joint positions to which Israel's most senior ministers agreed.

The Laborites had made clear they were prepared to accept Baker's points as originally

formulated. The Likud ministers wanted ironclad U.S. guarantees.

The Israeli reservations were the subject of three-way telephone diplomacy last week between Jerusalem and Washington, and Washington and Cairo, which has offered to host an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Baker telephoned his Israeli and Egyptian counterparts on Nov. 1, before leaving for Australia, to suggest slight changes in his five-point plan. He then sent letters summarizing the changes to the two foreign ministers.

#### Showdown With Likud Hard-Liners?

In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher cautioned Friday against making too much of the fact that Baker had put his thoughts in writing. He said the secretary merely "summarized discussions they had and put them into perspective."

He stressed the United States was not doing anything that could bring Israel into negotiations or dialogue with the PLO.

What the United States wants is a "dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians," the State Department official said.

Shamir not only demanded the PLO be kept out, but insisted on U.S. guarantees that the dialogue would be limited to the modalities of the Palestinian elections.

But Peres and Rabin warned that to impose "conditions" would be tantamount to rejecting Baker's proposals.

Eventually the four ministers agreed that Israel's acceptance of the five points would be contingent upon an "understanding," which is less absolute than a "condition."

But the decision seems to spell another showdown between Shamir and hard-line ministers within his Likud bloc who oppose not only the Baker plan, but Shamir's entire initiative for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The three Inner Cabinet members who cast negative votes Sunday -- Ariel Sharon, David Levy and Yitzhak Moda'i -- warned of dire consequences for Israel. They want to convene the Likud Central Committee for a referendum on Shamir's policies.

The prime minister is trying to convince them to wait until his return from the United States.

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

#### **ISRAELI JEW STABBED IN OLD CITY ON WAY TO PRAY AT WESTERN WALL** By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- A Jewish immigrant on his way to pray at the Western Wall was stabbed by two young Arabs Sunday morning in the Old City.

The victim, Avraham Feld, 35, sustained only slight injuries. He was reported Sunday afternoon to be in good condition at the Hadassah University Hospital in Ein Kerem, and it was possible he would be released by evening.

Police closed the Old City gates for about an hour after the incident. An undisclosed number of Arabs were arrested for questioning.

Feld, a former New Yorker who settled in Israel more than 10 years ago, is married and has several children.

He said he was attacked between the Jewish

and Moslem quarters of the Old City at about 11 a.m. by two youths, one 16 and the other 20 years old.

The weapon was a screwdriver, which inflicted light injuries in his chest just under the shoulder. Feld was able to walk to the nearest police station, where he gave a description of his assailants. He received first-aid treatment and then was hospitalized.

"I don't know why I was attacked," Feld said, but he alluded to the intifada, or Palestinian uprising in the administered territories.

He said one of the Arabs had a knife, but he beat them off before it could be used.

#### **U.S. DENIES IT WON'T PRESS SYRIA ON GROUP'S ROLE IN PAN AM BOMBING** By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- The Bush administration has denied charges that it is reluctant to press Syria to cut off ties with the terrorist group believed responsible for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 last December.

But State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher refused again Friday to confirm that the United States believes the group responsible for the act is the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, headed by Ahmed Jabril.

All Boucher would say was that Washington "has discussed the Pan Am 103 bombing with Syria, as we have with other countries which may have information about terrorist groups."

Boucher was responding to charges in a column by A.M. Rosenthal, published Friday in The New York Times, that the United States has provided evidence to Syria that the PFLP-General Command is responsible for the bombing, but that Syria has refused to close the bases of the terrorist group or expel it from Syrian-controlled portions of Lebanon.

The United States has not informed the American public of this because it "considers its relations with Syria more important than keeping the American public fully informed," Rosenthal suggested.

"The United States has repeatedly expressed concern, both publicly and privately, about terrorist groups supported by Syria, including the PFLP-General Command," Boucher said.

"On numerous occasions, we have asked Syria to take actions against these groups, both inside Syria and in Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon," Boucher said. He explained that the actions could start "with expulsion and restrictions on their activities."

Boucher added that the United States "is not satisfied with the Syrian response to date, and we will continue to press our concerns."

#### **ISRAELI NAVY SEIZES THREE PLO MEMBERS** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- The Israeli navy is stopping suspected vessels at sea and questioning their passengers and crews.

Three Palestinians said to have admitted to membership in Al Fatah were seized Friday off a yacht bound from Cyprus to Sidon in southern Lebanon, it was reported here Sunday. Fatah is the fighting arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization headed by Yasir Arafat.

The yacht was allowed to continue its voyage after the others on board were interrogated.

## MUBARAK ORDERS TANKER RELEASED AFTER ISRAEL PUTS UP GUARANTEE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- Egypt ended its two-week-long detention of the Israeli tanker Nyuta on Friday, after President Hosni Mubarak personally intervened in the case. But the matter is still not closed.

Mubarak ordered the immediate release of the vessel and its crew, which had been held by the Egyptian authorities since Oct. 21 for allegedly causing an oil spill in the Gulf of Suez.

Although Israel denies responsibility for the spill, a deal appears to have been struck.

On Saturday night, the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, Shimon Shamir, presented a letter of guarantee from his government for up to \$1 million in compensation for damages caused by the alleged oil spill. It will be followed by a marine underwriter's guarantee when they open for business Monday.

The ambassador submitted his letter to the Egyptian oil minister, Abdul Hadi Kandil, and the minister for environmental affairs, Atef Obed.

Egyptian officials suggested that the money be used to clean up the spill and to cover whatever fine an Egyptian court may impose on the Nyuta's master, Capt. Zvi Yosef.

Yosef says categorically that his ship did not spill oil when it passed through the Straits of Tiran on Oct. 17, contrary to the Egyptian claim.

The captain has been questioned repeatedly by the Egyptian authorities, but has held his ground. After an interrogation session Saturday, he was turned over to Israeli Embassy personnel in Cairo for a court appearance Tuesday.

The Nyuta and its crew, though free to sail, remain at the East Zeid Bay oil port, awaiting the fate of their skipper. The crew hopes he will be free to command the ship on its return voyage to Eilat later this week.

## FRANCE RESUMES ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL FOR FIRST TIME SINCE THE SIX-DAY WAR

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- For the first time in 21 years, France will officially supply military equipment to Israel.

The government has authorized the sale of modern jet engines for updated models of the Kfir fighter plane, the first combat aircraft designed and produced in Israel.

It is a departure from the policy set by Gen. Charles de Gaulle, then president of France, on June 3, 1967, when he imposed an arms embargo against Israel on the eve of the Six-Day War.

The embargo was made total by President Georges Pompidou in December 1968, after an Israeli air raid on the Beirut airport.

Now the state-owned SNECMA Co. will sell Israel five Atar 9K-50 engines that were initially developed for France's Mirage IV nuclear bomber and its Mirage F-1 jet fighter.

French officials say the Israelis planned to equip the new Kfirs with General Electric J-79 engines, but chose the French alternative in order to diversify their sources of supply.

Israel apparently does not want to be totally dependent on American good will for its military hardware, the French say.

The only condition put on the sale is a commitment by Israel not to sell the engine to a third country without France's permission.

## TRADE RELATIONS HIGH ON AGENDA OF ARENS' SIX-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN

By Neil A. Weinberg

TOKYO, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens arrives in Tokyo on Monday for an official six-day visit that is to include talks with Japanese political and business leaders, including Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Arens' visit follows a trip to Israel in June 1988 by Susuke Uno, then Japanese foreign minister. His trip is expected to focus on Middle Eastern political issues and trade between Israel and Japan, according to government sources here.

Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama are expected, during talks with Arens on Thursday, to reassert Japan's support for an Israeli withdrawal from all territories taken by Israel in 1967. They will also urge direct Israeli negotiations with the Palestinian Liberation Organization, according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Japan recognizes "the PLO as an indispensable party for peace," the spokesman said.

Japan's friendly relations with the PLO were underscored five weeks ago, when its chairman, Yasir Arafat, visited Tokyo. At that time, Japan also approved a name change for the PLO's Tokyo office, which is now called the Permanent General Mission of Palestine.

Because of the disparity of views on Middle Eastern issues held by the Japanese and Israeli governments, substantive results of the Arens visit are likely to be limited to the economic sphere, political observers say.

"I do not think Arens expects too much politically -- just an exchange of views," said Naoki Maruyama, professor of Middle East politics and international relations at the International University of Japan. "But if he encourages more Japanese companies to trade with Israel, I think it will be a great success."

## No Plan To Break Boycott

Israel has long sought to increase technological cooperation and trade with Japan, which have been suppressed by the refusal of many Japanese firms to deal with Israel because of compliance with the Arab boycott.

Japan currently imports about 70 percent of its oil from Arab nations and last year sold them goods worth about \$9 billion.

Although Japan-Israel trade jumped to about \$1.14 billion in 1988 from \$385 million three years earlier, much of the rise was due to growing Japanese diamond imports, rather than widespread economic cooperation.

Arens will attempt during his trip here to promote bilateral economic ties through high-profile visits to corporations and a number of government high-technology institutes.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that although there is a growing awareness within the Japanese government that its Middle East relations should reflect more than economic self-interest, "a drastic change in bilateral relations is not realistic."

Japan has "no intention to declare an anti-boycott statement" during Arens' stay here and respects the rights of Japanese companies to decide for themselves who to trade with, he said.

Arens will wrap up his official schedule here on Friday by meeting with leaders of Japan's ruling and leading opposition parties, excluding the Japan Socialist Party, which reportedly did not respond to an official meeting request.

## REFORM LEADER BLAMES AMERICAN JEWS FOR ASSIMILATION OF SOVIET EMIGRES

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- A leader of Reform Jewry has laid much of the blame for Soviet Jewry's large-scale lack of involvement with Judaism in this country at the feet of American Jewry.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said many Soviet emigre families are dropping out of Jewish life because American Jews have "failed to reach out" to the new arrivals.

Schindler, speaking Saturday at UAHC's 60th biennial convention here, told some 3,500 Reform leaders that Jewish congregations, including Reform synagogues, have been "most neglectful" in failing to encourage contact between Soviet Jewish emigres and the American Jewish community.

In his sharply worded critique, Schindler particularly emphasized what he called the "embarrassingly inadequate" response of American Jews to the United Jewish Appeal's Passage to Freedom campaign, the \$75 million special fund established to support absorption programs for Soviet Jews both in America and Israel.

He specifically called on "each of our 822 Reform congregations to engage in a vigorous outreach program to bring Soviet Jewish families into our synagogues and homes."

During a convention workshop, Shoshana Cardin, chairwoman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, applauded help offered by UAHC congregations, citing two examples of effective outreach by member synagogues that could be replicated by other congregations across the country.

Cardin spoke of a program at Shearith Israel in San Francisco, a historic synagogue that survived both the earthquakes of 1906 and 1989. The congregation has integrated more than 100 Soviet Jewish emigres, who now attend services regularly, it was reported.

### Tensions With Vatican Dissipate

Shearith Israel, in cooperation with Jewish community organizations, has set up a "havurah" (fellowship) for Soviet Jews that serves as a support group where the new arrivals can discuss and solve the problems of daily living, as well as learn about Jewish things.

Cardin also spoke about Congregation Rodef Shalom in Pittsburgh, which has helped organized Jewish communal agencies and other congregations in the region into a network that matches American Jewish families, as "mentors," with Soviet emigre families, to help the new Americans adjust to their new home.

Among the others addressing the five-day conference, which opened Thursday evening, was a founder of the World Jewish Congress who has been intimately involved with negotiations to relocate the Carmelite convent at Auschwitz.

Gerhart Riegner, co-chairman of the governing board of the WJC, said Catholic-Jewish tensions over the convent seem to have dissipated, "because we openly faced the representatives of the church and clearly explained the grievances."

Riegner, who spoke at the opening session of the UAHC conference, believes that "quick progress will now be made in fulfilling the agreements" signed by Catholic and Jewish leaders to remove the convent and build an interfaith center away from the grounds of the former death camp.

## NEW BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DESCRIBED AS PRO-ARAB BUT FAIR

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- Staunch parliamentary friends of Israel are urging Jerusalem to keep an open mind about Britain's new foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, who has a reputation for being mildly pro-Arab, but is also fair-minded and an experienced, respected diplomat.

Israel may not be happy about his appointment, but if it "perceives him as an enemy, they will not listen to him," said Laborite Greville Janner, a senior Jewish member of Parliament.

Robert Rhodes James, chairman of the Conservative Friends of Israel in Parliament, said Hurd was "a longstanding friend of Israel," who was "experienced and open-minded on the Middle East. He is a real professional and knows the area and the problems."

While he was minister of state for foreign affairs at the Foreign Office in the early 1980s, Hurd criticized Israel for invading Lebanon and for building settlements in the West Bank.

Hurd, a 14-year career diplomat, served in Beijing, Rome and at the United Nations.

His appointment as foreign secretary followed the government crisis over the resignation of Nigel Lawson as chancellor of the exchequer. Lawson, a Jew, was replaced by John Major, who had been foreign secretary.

## U.S. WILL STAND BESIDE ISRAEL, REAGAN TELLS AJC COMMITTEE LEADERS

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 5 (JTA) -- Former President Ronald Reagan pledged Saturday evening that America will stand at Israel's side during Middle East peace negotiations. He also expressed his revulsion of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States.

"This nation is committed to Israel's security. We must never do anything to jeopardize that," Reagan said. "The peace process between Israel and her neighbors is foreign policy to us. But for the people of Israel, it's a matter of survival."

The former president made his remarks at a dinner after accepting the American Liberties Medallion, the highest award bestowed by the American Jewish Committee. The organization's National Executive Council concluded its five-day meeting here on Sunday.

In the award citation, the group stressed Reagan's support of Israel during his administration, his commitment to freedom for Soviet Jewry and his efforts on behalf of Ethiopian Jews.

Touching on domestic concerns, Reagan said, "I share with you the deepest revulsion to some of the recent episodes of anti-Semitism (directed) at synagogues, on college campuses and at your very homes."

"When one man or woman is attacked, we are all at risk," he said.

A second honoree at the dinner was producer-director Steven Spielberg, who received the AJC's Mass Media Award for "bringing filmmaking to new heights while faithfully maintaining artistic integrity and deep concern for human values."

In his acceptance speech, Spielberg credited his value system to his upbringing. "When you grow up in a Jewish home, values aren't abstract, they are real," he said.