

**ISRAELI VOTE ON FIVE POINTS WELCOMED,
BUT U.S. RAISES DOUBT ON 'ASSURANCES'**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- The State Department has welcomed as "a step forward" the decision by Israel's Inner Cabinet to accept Secretary of State Baker's five-point proposal for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

The next step is for Egypt, which "has been working very closely with the Palestinians," to announce its acceptance, State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said Monday.

He indicated that when this occurs, Baker will invite Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his Egyptian counterpart, Esmat Abdel Meguid, to Washington to discuss setting up the dialogue.

But Boucher took great pains to try to separate Israel's acceptance of Baker's five points from the conditions set by the Inner Cabinet.

The 9-3 vote in Jerusalem on Sunday was based on the "understanding" that the United States provide assurances that Israel would not find itself engaged in negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Boucher denied that Israel had set conditions, maintaining the Israelis talked about "assumptions."

"We know that both Israel and Egypt are likely to request certain clarifications," he said.

The United States is prepared to discuss these "assurances, assumptions or clarifications, as long as they are consistent with the spirit of the five points and the process they are designed to facilitate," he added.

Egypt May Insist On PLO Role

Boucher said that while Egypt is expected to seek its own assurances, the Palestinians have not so far asked for any clarifications, either privately or publicly.

The State Department maintains that the United States has not discussed Baker's five points in its talks with the PLO in Tunis. Instead, the United States says it is simply asking the PLO not to block the effort to bring about elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Egypt is talking to "the Palestinians" about the five points, Boucher acknowledged, though he did not say the talks were with the PLO.

A State Department official indicated that Israeli and Egyptian requests for assurances will be discussed at the Washington meeting, which is the fifth and only one of Baker's points whose wording the State Department has confirmed.

The official repeatedly stressed that the requests for assurances are a second issue apart from the five points, which provide the basic framework for the Israel-Palestinian dialogue.

It may be hard to agree to Egyptian requests without negating the assurances Israel wants. For instance, the Egyptians are almost certain to request a PLO presence or, at the very least, that the Palestinian delegation include two Palestinians living outside of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The official indicated that trying to resolve these differences could take a long time. Baker will begin working on them as soon as he receives Egypt's acceptance, the official said.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:
WHY SHAMIR AGREED TO ACCEPT
BAKER'S FIVE-POINT PROPOSAL**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's nearly unqualified acceptance of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point proposal for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue has clearly enraged the hard-line faction in his Likud bloc.

But it has also given political pundits here a feast of speculation.

The question being asked is why Shamir, who prides himself on his leathery toughness, backed off from a position to which he had held firmly during weeks of long-distance jousting with the Bush administration.

The answers offered range from a desire to keep the Likud-led coalition government intact awhile longer to a notion that the Palestinians themselves can be counted on to wreck the process, thereby getting Israel off the hook.

The Inner Cabinet's 9-3 vote Sunday to accept the Baker plan was indeed a retreat by Shamir, given the importance diplomacy attaches to the nuance of language.

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

It was understood there would be U.S. assurances on other Israeli concerns. But an "understanding" was not what Shamir had fought for this past month.

He had insisted until last week that Israel's acceptance of Baker's five points would be "conditional" on certain U.S. undertakings.

Fearful Breakup Of Government

In the world of diplomacy, there is a vast difference between the two. As Vice Premier Shimon Peres, Shamir's Labor coalition partner pointed out, setting conditions would have been tantamount to rejection of the American proposal.

Labor was perfectly content to accept Baker's points without amendment. A Likud rejection could have precipitated a potentially fatal government crisis.

According to the political analysts, that was one factor behind Shamir's decision.

The prime minister and his aides, they say, were genuinely worried that Peres would be able to put together a narrowly based, Labor-led governing coalition with some of the ultra-Orthodox parties.

Likud was seeking the same hedge against collapse of the unity government. But its talks with the Agudat Yisrael party were going badly.

Agudah is at the point of seceding from the coalition unless its demands for concessions in the religious sphere are met. Should it defect, its five Knesset votes would be available to support a no-confidence motion against the present government and join a narrow government under Labor.

Another religious faction, Degel HaTorah, is considered firmly in Labor's camp, and Likud fears the Shas party might jump on the Labor bandwagon if other ultra-Orthodox parties did.

Another possible motive for Shamir's decision was that he and his close associates -- Foreign Minister Moshe Arens among others -- had concluded that a showdown with Likud's hard-line dissenters is unavoidable.

It is widely admitted in the Shamir-Arens camp that the prime minister made a grave mistake at the July 5 meeting of Likud's Central Committee, when he yielded to hard-line demands that he attach rigid conditions to his initiative for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Impact Of U.S. Pressure

They placed constraints on Israel's peace-making ability, weakened Shamir's political clout and strengthened the hands of his chief rivals: Ariel Sharon, David Levy and Yitzhak Moda'i.

The three say Shamir's pledges of last July have been "flagrantly breached," and they vow vengeance.

Shamir believes he and the party faithful can face down his detractors in his own good time.

U.S. pressure was another possible factor. According to the pundits, it was becoming increasingly insistent and discomfiting.

Shamir and his aides realized, perhaps belatedly, that Baker and President Bush had taken his elections initiative more seriously than, perhaps, some of Israel's policy-makers themselves did.

At any rate, the U.S. administration invested a good deal of effort and prestige in the proposal, which the Israeli Cabinet endorsed last May 14. They were therefore irritated that Israel's recalcitrance might bring their efforts to nought.

After mighty efforts to secure the best possible wording from his viewpoint, Shamir gave in to American pressure. According to this theory, he sensed that Israel's position would not be especially strong in an all-out confrontation with Washington at this time.

Analysts say he probably calculates he can make his stand against the PLO's involvement in the peace process somewhat farther down the road.

Therefore he prefers to go along with Baker now, keeping Israel's guard up against substantive encroachments on its basic positions later, so the speculation goes.

Arabs May Balk Yet

Finally, according to some analysts, the prime minister believes, and even hopes, that the Arab side will balk and bring the whole risky enterprise to a halt.

Some in Likud are convinced that the "assumptions" around which the Inner Cabinet hedged its acceptance of the Baker plan are enough to deter the PLO from giving its tacit assent to a dialogue with Israel and to the proposed elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The flaw in that thinking is that the Palestinians and Egyptians are demanding their own "assurances" from the United States to counterbalance what Washington gives Israel.

Within the realm of what former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger often referred to as "constructive ambiguity," there may yet be room for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

But if that does take place, Israeli observers are unanimous in predicting that a crisis will erupt when the talks open, and it may pervade they for the duration.

SHAMIR PLANNING A STOP IN PARIS TO HEAD OFF E.C. MOVES IN MIDEAST

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel is planning intensive diplomatic lobbying in Paris and Rome on his way home from the United States later this month, in the hope of heading off new European involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Shamir plans to arrive in Paris on Nov. 21 for talks with President Francois Mitterrand and key ministers of the European Community. He will stop in Rome to meet with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti before returning to Israel.

Shamir's objective is to convince the 12-nation E.C. to stand back and give the current American-supported Israeli peace initiative a chance to produce results.

Shamir will probably have a chance to meet with the E.C.'s so-called "troika," the three foreign ministers assigned specifically to monitor the Middle East situation.

They are the incumbent chairman of the E.C. Council of Ministers, an office which rotates every six months, his immediate predecessor and the minister who will succeed him. At present these are, respectively, the foreign ministers of France, Spain and Ireland.

The "troika" is scheduled to meet with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat in Tunisia on Nov. 11 and with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in Cairo on Nov. 13.

They will have the Palestinian position fresh in mind therefore when they confer with Shamir in Paris.

The Israeli prime minister, however, will be bolstered by his expected meeting with President Bush at the White House, probably on Nov. 16.

E.C. Can Now Exert Pressure

The "troika" will be drafting recommendations for a European summit conference to be held in Strasbourg, France, from Dec. 7 to 9. Strasbourg is the seat of the European Parliament, the E.C.'s legislative body.

The summit can decide to stick to a passive role on the Middle East, as it has in the past, or become actively involved in the search for a solution.

Israel fears European activism in that area would be to its disadvantage. The 12-nation E.C. is in a position to exert severe pressure, as it is Israel's main trading partner.

European Commissioner Jacques Delors pointedly warned Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, at a meeting in Brussels last month, that the E.C.'s economic relations with Israel and the search for a political solution of the Middle East conflict "are intimately connected."

The summit may also decide whether to revive the long-moribund Euro-Arab dialogue. Mitterrand last month proposed convening an E.C. meeting in December with the Arab League and the PLO.

In view of the directions the E.C. is headed, and its growing influence in the economic sphere, Shamir's planned talk with Mitterrand is being described here as crucial.

The Israeli prime minister can take little comfort from Mitterrand's speech to the European Parliament last month, in which he condemned Israel's behavior in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the harshest terms and insisted on the PLO's participation in all phases of the peace process.

DON'T JUDGE BLACKS BY JACKSON, LEADER IN REFORM MOVEMENT URGES

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- A ranking official of American Reform Judaism warned a Jewish audience of 3,500 here Sunday that it is "sick" and "it is racism" for Jews to judge all black politicians by Jesse Jackson.

The speaker, Albert Vorspan, a senior vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, spoke to delegates from all over the United States and Canada attending UAHC's 60th biennial convention at the Marriott Hotel here.

"It is unrealistic and wrong to expect every black candidate for public office to perform a ritual of public repudiation of Jesse Jackson as the quid pro quo for Jewish consideration," said Vorspan, who is director of UAHC's Commission on Social Action.

"We do not have to support Jesse Jackson out of some misconceived Jewish guilt. I could not vote for him," Vorspan said. "But it is sick to let him become the lens through which Jews see and judge all blacks.

"There is a name for that -- it is racism. It is time to exorcise that dybbuk, lest Jesse Jackson become the excuse for racial stereotyping and hatred," Vorspan declared.

He said that "because of our Jackson syndrome, we permit the most cynical political scoundrels to play on our fears like violins."

He urged that David Dinkins, the Democratic mayoral candidate in New York, and Doug Wilder, the Democratic gubernatorial candidate in Virginia, both of them black, be judged on their records and views, not because they once had some connection with Jesse Jackson.

Vorspan maintained that blacks and Jews "still work together on common projects and common concerns," despite the fact that "the traditional black-Jewish coalition has become frayed and there are those in each community ready to write it off."

He noted that the black and Jewish congressional caucuses "vote almost interchangeably on aid to Israel, Soviet Jewry, apartheid, and separation of church and state.

The UAHC, he said, continues its ongoing programs in black-Jewish relations through the Kivie Kaplan Institute, a joint project with the NAACP, and the Marjorie Kovler Institute, which recently made a \$100,000 grant to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the South African anti-apartheid activist.

WEST GERMAN PARTY INVITES ARAFAT TO BONN, BUT RECEIVES NO RESPONSE

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- The opposition Social Democratic Party has invited Yasir Arafat to visit West Germany, but it seems to have gotten a snub.

The invitation was delivered to the Palestine Liberation Organization chief in Tunisia last week by Peter Glotz, a former secretary-general of the party, which goes by the abbreviation SPD.

The invitation was not immediately accepted. Arafat apparently wants the government in Bonn to extend the invitation, or at least a guarantee that he will be received by Chancellor Helmut Kohl and by the president of the Federal Republic, Richard von Weizsacker.

Glotz, who would say only that the invita-

tion to Arafat was on the table, made clear that it was approved by the party's highest authorities.

He said the SPD had a difficult time explaining its position on the PLO to Israel's Labor Party, a fellow member of the Socialist International.

But according to Glotz, the time has come for West Germany to follow the French example. He was referring to Arafat's official visit to Paris last spring, where he was formally received by President Francois Mitterrand.

Officials here say privately that the government would prefer that the PLO leader not come to Bonn.

If he chooses to come, however, it will have to be decided whether or not he will be greeted by a minister or other high-ranking official. At this point, Arafat is unlikely to be received by the president or the chancellor, officials say.

ARAB WANTED FOR ATTACKS SHOT DEAD WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE INTO JORDAN

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- A West Bank Palestinian long wanted on suspicion of arson, firebombings and assaults was fatally shot by Israeli security forces in the Jordan Valley early Monday, as he tried to escape into Jordan.

But a companion, believed to have been wounded, managed to cross the border.

An Israel Defense Force spokesman identified the suspect as Wa'il Mahmad Daoud Haj Hassan, 20, of Kalkilya. The IDF said he had been the object of a manhunt for two years.

Hassan was suspected of numerous Molotov cocktail assaults on Israeli vehicles in Kalkilya, as well as attacks on local Arabs whom he believed were cooperating with the Israelis.

The early morning shooting occurred in the Jordan Valley near Moshav Mchula, where an IDF patrol spotted two men acting suspiciously and opened fire on them. Hassan was treated at the scene by a military doctor, but died of his wounds.

There have been numerous infiltration attempts from Jordan in recent months, so settlements in the vicinity were put on alert while the IDF searched the area. Nothing was found and the alert was canceled.

IDF FURLONGHS OFFICER FOR BEATINGS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force has furloughed an officer accused of ordering his men to break the bones of Arab villagers in the West Bank, it was disclosed here Sunday.

Col. Yehuda Meir was sent on unpaid leave Nov. 1, while the High Court of Justice considers appeals for his trial by a military court.

According to the state prosecutor, Meir ordered soldiers under his command to break the arms and legs of 20 Arab residents of Beita and Huwara villages, in the Samaria district, shortly after the beginning of the intifada nearly two years ago.

An affidavit submitted last Friday to the court by the prosecutor showed that a decision was made six months ago to try Meir, though the chief of staff took steps not to publicize it.

According to the affidavit, the orders were clearly illegal and should not have been obeyed by officers and troops under Meir's command.

U.S. TAKES STEP TOWARD SHUTTING DOWN 'VIENNA-ROME PIPELINE' FOR REFUGEES

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- The State Department has moved a step closer toward shutting down the "Vienna-Rome pipeline" used by tens of thousands of Soviet Jews to seek entry to the United States as refugees.

The department surprised many by announcing in Moscow last week that the United States would no longer process refugee applications in Rome for Soviet Jews and others who did not obtain their Israeli entry visas by Nov. 5.

That deadline placed a new constraint on Soviet Jews and Evangelical Christians seeking to enter the United States with Israeli papers.

On Oct. 1, the United States shifted its processing of Soviet refugees from Rome to Moscow and said that from that point on, those wishing to enter the United States as refugees would have to apply for U.S. visas in Moscow.

But it said it would still consider granting refugee status under the old system in Rome to those with Soviet exit visas dated before Oct. 1. Until last week, though, Soviet Jews and Evangelicals were not bound to obtain their Israeli entry visas by any particular date.

A State Department official said that the United States will show a "little bit of flexibility" toward Soviets who received Soviet exit visas by Oct. 1 but did not obtain their Israeli entry visas by Nov. 5.

The State Department official said potential refugees who did not meet the Nov. 5 deadline would have to provide a "very good story," and predicted that they would probably have to be processed through Moscow, not Rome.

"I would anticipate that there are very few people" with good excuses, such as ill health, the official said.

Reports Of Forged Visas

Under emigration procedures, the Soviet exit visa is exchanged for an Israeli entry visa at the Dutch Embassy, which represents Israeli interests in Moscow in the absence of full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Holders of Israeli entry visas then travel to Vienna, where 85 to 90 percent "drop out" of their "intention" to immigrate to Israel. They then travel to Rome, where they file applications for U.S. refugee status at a processing center.

Refugee status, granted to foreigners who demonstrate "a well-founded fear of persecution," confers with it access to U.S. government funds for transportation and initial resettlement, as well as the opportunity to become a U.S. citizen.

The new deadline "puts a lid" on the number of Soviets entering the Rome-Vienna pipeline, and establishes a "more visible limit," said the State Department official.

He said there are "stories going around" that some of the Soviet exit visas are being forged so that they will be dated prior to Oct. 1. The official said that with Soviet authorities, "anything can be done, given the right amount of money."

Mark Talisman, Washington representative of the Council of Jewish Federations, claimed that fraudulent Soviet exit visas "are turning up in significant numbers." A similar claim was made by David Harris, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee.

Karl Zukerman, executive vice president of

the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, acknowledged that there is now "a finite population" of potential Soviet refugees flying to Rome.

23,000 Already In Pipeline

Zukerman said there were 23,000 Soviet Jews in the pipeline as of early November, and roughly 17,000 Soviet Jews who have met the U.S. deadline but not yet left the Soviet Union. He said that 10,400 Soviets, 8,000 of whom are Jewish, entered the pipeline in October -- the highest monthly total ever.

He added that the October rate seemed to be holding for the first few days of November, and that the number may not drop dramatically for another three months.

The latest deadline does not require potential refugees to leave the Soviet Union by any given date, so it is still unclear to the United States how many potential refugees are really out there who meet the new U.S. requirements to be processed in Rome.

The State Department official said "the potential is there that more than 50,000 people will show up in Rome" seeking U.S. refugee status as Soviet refugees.

The Bush administration's quota for Soviet refugees this fiscal year, which began Oct. 1, is 50,000. If more than 50,000 arrive soon in Rome, then those above the ceiling "would have to wait for a year" at least before their refugee applications were adjudicated, the official added.

He added that the State Department prefers that such potential refugees stay in the Soviet Union rather than enter the Rome-Vienna pipeline any time soon because of the backlog there, estimated at 25,000 Soviets, and the high cost of keeping them there.

WOMAN WHO HID ANNE FRANK HONORED

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- The West German government has presented its highest civilian award for a foreigner to Miep Gies, the Dutch woman who hid the family of Anne Frank from the Nazis during World War II.

Gies received the Order of Merit First Class from the West German ambassador, Otto von der Gabelentz, at the Federal Republic's embassy in The Hague last Friday.

She was cited for her help to the Frank family from July 1942 to August 1944, and also for her lectures to youth groups and schools in West Germany in recent years.

Gies, who speaks fluent German, was born in Vienna and came to Holland at age 17.

Accepting the award, she said she shared it with thousands of others who had tried, successfully or not, to help Jews survive during the Nazi occupation of Holland.

In the United States, Gies received the Courage to Care Award from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in 1987 for being a "Righteous Gentile," and has been the subject of a book, "Anne Frank Remembered," and a film, "The Secret Annex: the Hiding of Anne Frank."

She said when she received the ADL award that she had agreed to come forward from obscurity so that the wartime story would not be forgotten.

"We were just doing what people should do," she said many times of herself, her husband and the others who helped hide the Franks and others.