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**SHAMIR FAILS TO GET ASSURANCES
IN MEETINGS WITH BUSH AND BAKER**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir emerged from talks with President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker on Wednesday without receiving the assurances Israel asked for in accepting Baker's five-point proposal for Israeli-Palestinian talks.

But Shamir did say that "there is no more tension" between the U.S. and Israel, and that various problems were clarified.

Speaking after his one-hour White House meeting with Bush, Shamir indicated that a response from the United States would not come until Egypt also accepted the five points.

However, after Shamir had met with Baker at the State Department prior to the White House meeting, both Shamir and Baker said that "some progress" had been made.

A senior administration official, briefing reporters after both meetings, defined progress as both sides now having a better understanding of their positions.

Shamir said that some of the points raised during the meeting with Bush were U.S. concerns over Israel's military relationship with South Africa and Israel's settlement policy.

The administration official would not give any details except to say that Bush had raised these concerns with Shamir.

Denies Any Tension

The official denied that there had been any tension between Israel and the United States except for the normal differences that friends have.

He said the "tensions" were only in the newspapers and that the administration had paid no attention to them.

Despite this denial, the White House did not schedule Shamir's meeting with Bush until six days before it took place, even though the Israelis had requested the meeting two months ago.

Shamir described both his talks at the State Department and the White House as "very friendly." The issue of Baker's five points and the assurances Israel wants against PLO participation in negotiations were discussed mainly during the talks at the State Department.

Shamir and Bush talked about the Middle East peace process in general, but did not discuss the assurances specifically, Shamir said.

Shamir stressed that the assurances Israel is seeking are "not contradictory to the spirit" of Baker's five points. Rather, "our assumptions will give more strength" to the Baker proposals.

At the White House, Shamir cautioned that it will take a long time to bring fruition to the Israeli peace initiative. He said it is "not an easy" task.

In his remarks at the State Department, Shamir indicated that he would like Baker to come to Israel. Baker did not respond, but has been unwilling to go to Israel until an agreement is reached on the Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Earlier in the day, Shamir met with Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney in what an Israeli spokesperson called "a good meeting."

**PLO ANNIVERSARY SURPRISINGLY QUIET
AS IDF EXHIBITS MASSIVE PRESENCE**

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Only scattered incidents Wednesday marked the first anniversary of the proclamation of an "independent Palestine" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The massive presence of the Israel Defense Force in the territories, and various protective measures, were credited for the relative quiet.

The IDF placed more than 20 cities and towns under what it called preventive curfew, affecting more than 350,000 residents. Troops erected roadblocks to keep the news media out.

But casualties were reported.

An 18-year-old Arab youth, identified as Odah Hussein Ziyad, was shot to death Tuesday night when, according to the IDF, a group of youngsters attacked a military patrol in the Kalandiya refugee camp near Ramallah.

At least 13 Arabs were reported wounded by army gunfire in the Gaza Strip, which has been a closed military zone since the ambush killing of an Israeli soldier Monday night.

There were a few stone-throwing incidents and demonstrations by Palestinians. An Israeli was slightly injured when his car was stoned at Halhoul, near Hebron in the West Bank.

The authorities arrested seven young Palestinians -- five boys and two girls -- for stoning troops in Shuafat north of Jerusalem.

20 Arabs Arrested

Border police used tear gas to disperse Arab doctors and nurses from the Augusta Victoria and Mokassed hospitals in East Jerusalem, who demonstrated with Palestinian flags.

Twenty Arabs were arrested in East Jerusalem on suspicion of stone-throwing, illegal marching and painting proscribed slogans on walls.

But the police expressed satisfaction that there were relatively few incidents in the eastern part of the city.

"Independent Palestine" was declared by the Palestine National Council at its meeting in Algiers on Nov. 15, 1988.

The PNC is a forum of the Palestine Liberation Organization, sometimes referred to as the Palestinian "parliament in exile." It is dominated by the PLO mainstream, headed by Yasir Arafat.

Arafat marked the anniversary at his headquarters in Tunis Wednesday by issuing a statement that the PLO has "an appointment with victory."

"The dawn is breaking and the (Palestinian) state is a stone's throw away," the statement declared.

He criticized the United States for continuing to support Israel. "It is the still unlimited U.S. assistance which adds to Israel's arrogance," the statement said.

Meanwhile, a Labor member of the Knesset, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, maintained in the radio interview Wednesday that it was up to Israel to initiate a peace process with the Palestinians.

Ben-Eliezer, a former commanding general in the West Bank, warned that any delay in proposed Palestinian elections in the administered territories would result in an outcome similar to the

recent elections in Jordan, where 34 "fanatic Moslems" were elected to parliament.

He was referring to the success of Moslem fundamentalists in Jordan's elections Nov. 9, the first held in 22 years.

Ben-Eliezer warned that the intifada was gaining strength, which advanced fundamentalist tendencies among the Palestinians in the territories.

If elections are held soon, there is still a chance to block that trend, he said.

KOHL LAYS WREATH AT AUSCHWITZ; AIDE APOLOGIZES FOR SLANDER REMARK David Kantor

WEST BERLIN, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany placed a wreath at the site of mass killings at the former Auschwitz death camp Tuesday and acknowledged that the chief victims were "European Jews" slain "in the name of Germany."

He inscribed those words in the visitors' book, adding that "the warnings emanating from this place must never be forgotten."

The historic occasion was marred earlier in the week by a reference to "international Jewry" by one of Kohl's aides. The remark provoked an angry protest from Heinz Galinski, leader of West Germany's 30,000-member Jewish community, who accompanied the chancellor to Auschwitz.

Galinski pointed out that the phrase "international Jewry" was a staple of Nazi propaganda and anti-Semites everywhere, one that conjured up the image of a global Jewish conspiracy to control the world.

The German official, government spokesman Hans Klein, used it in the course of explaining a change in the chancellor's itinerary.

Kohl's official visit to Poland began last Thursday with an agenda that originally included a visit to Auschwitz on Saturday.

Jews took offense and Galinski, himself an Auschwitz survivor, refused to accompany the chancellor there on the Jewish Sabbath.

In trying to make amends, Klein made matters worse. He announced at a news conference Friday that the Auschwitz visit was shifted to Tuesday out of respect for the feelings of "the international Jewry."

He was promptly accused of demeaning Jews with a well-worn Nazi stereotype, to which he responded angrily that he was only describing Jews as a general community, as he would any other population group.

Galinski took Klein aside Monday and after a 20-minute private conversation, the German official emerged contrite.

"I used the term 'international Jewry' but did not dream this would be interpreted to be a National Socialist expression now," Klein told reporters after the meeting.

"But I have no problem declaring I will not use the term again," he added.

Galinski said later he was "very pleased that Mr. Klein has immediately corrected his words. The problem is now settled."

The Auschwitz ceremony was a low-key but emotional occasion.

Kohl stepped forward alone to place the wreath of red and yellow flowers at the so-called Killing Wall in the main Auschwitz camp, where some 30,000 people were shot to death.

Then he backed away several yards and stood with bowed head for several minutes in

silent tribute to the victims.

A similar wreath was laid at a black stone monument near the ruins of the gas chambers in the Birkenau section of the camp.

Auschwitz-Birkenau was the largest of the Nazi death factories, where some 1.6 million people perished, including 1.35 million Jews.

The fact that most of them were Jews was emphasized by the only speaker on the occasion, Rabbi Pinchas Menachem Joskowicz of Warsaw, who is the chief and only rabbi of Poland.

He spoke of Auschwitz as the most notorious symbol of Nazi atrocities, of which Jews were the principal victims.

His remarks were seen as a bitter allusion to the continued presence of a Carmelite convent on the Auschwitz grounds, despite a pledge by the Roman Catholic Church more than two years ago to have it relocated.

Kohl's inscription in the visitors' book read: "The warning emanating from this place must never be forgotten."

"Unspeakable harm was inflicted on different peoples here, above all European Jews, in the name of Germany."

"We vow here once again to do everything to ensure that life, dignity, justice and freedom for all persons -- regardless of what God they worship, what nation they belong to, and what heritage they have -- remain inviolated on this earth."

Kohl was the second West German chancellor to pay tribute to the victims of Nazism at Auschwitz. His predecessor, Helmut Schmidt, visited the camp in 1977.

EAST GERMAN JEWS DEMAND GOVERNMENT STOP IGNORING ANTI-SEMITIC EPISODES By David Kantor

WEST BERLIN, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- The official East German news agency said Tuesday that the prosecution in Rostock, a city near the Baltic Sea, will soon make public information about recent serious anti-Semitic incidents.

The announcement was in response to demands by East Germany's minuscule Jewish community that the Communist regime end its 40-year practice of treating manifestations of anti-Semitism in the German Democratic Republic "like a state secret."

Until recently, the only accounts of anti-Semitism published in East Germany's controlled media occurred in West Germany. Officially, anti-Semitism did not exist in the East.

But the Jewish community has called on the regime to publicly acknowledge that the persecution of Jews in East Germany occurred under the Stalinist system emulated by Communist Party bosses Walter Ulbricht and the recently deposed Erich Honecker, who sent Jews to jail or branded them traitors.

East German Jews, officially numbering only about 400, no more than 800, most of them in East Berlin, have taken courage from the surge for popular reforms in recent days, which was highlighted by the opening and demolition of the Berlin Wall.

They are pressing the GDR to revise textbooks on the Nazi era and World War II, which in their present form fail to inform students of the organized persecution of Jews in Germany's past.

Jews have even entered the once forbidden realm of foreign policy debate, demanding that the government initiate a dialogue with Israel.

ISRAEL INCHES TOWARD A CONSTITUTION WITH KNESSET APPROVAL OF RIGHTS BILL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Israel moved an important step closer towards a constitution Wednesday, when the Knesset, by large majority, approved a preliminary reading on a Basic Human Rights Bill.

The bill, when it eventually will become law, will be known as a Basic Law, meaning that in time it will be part of Israel's constitution.

The vote was 53 to 19, with four abstentions, and followed a stormy debate in which the Knesset members from the religious parties found themselves almost isolated in their opposition to the bill.

The bill was presented by Shinui's Amnon Rubinstein. But in doing so, he made it clear that the measure is, in fact, a precise duplication of a bill which the government itself was intending to place on the agenda, after lengthy deliberation in the Ministerial Legislation Committee.

Rubinstein explained that he was presenting the bill now as a private member's measure, because he feared foot-dragging in the government for party-political reasons.

Recently, Likud promised Agudat Yisrael to block the bill, as a condition for Agudah remaining in the coalition. But Agudah last week withdrew from the government for a "test period" of two months.

Observers said the easy passage of the human rights bill Wednesday -- with only two Likud members joining the Orthodox to oppose it -- would inevitably further strain relations between Likud and the Orthodox parties.

Charges Of Breach-of-Promise

And, indeed, this was the tenor of a continuous cacophony of raucous heckling mounted by the Orthodox MKs through the debate. Agudah and Shas MKs hurled charges at Likud of breach-of-promise. Avraham Verdiger, speaking from the rostrum, said that Labor, in its 29 years of power, "would never have dared bring in such a dangerous bill."

Justice Minister Dan Meridor, speaking for the government, said the bill tried to take account of Orthodox sensitivities. He said Likud left its members to vote according to their own consciences. Labor required all of its members to support the measure.

The bill opens with a declaration that "the rights of man in Israel are based on the recognition of the value of man, of the sanctity of life and of his being a free man, and they will be honored in the spirit of the Israeli Declaration of Independence.

Meridor and Rubinstein told the Knesset that they were prepared to include in this declarative preamble the verse in Genesis that "man is created in the image of God."

The practical provisions assert equality regardless of religion, race, etc., and guarantee all the basic rights and freedoms, including movement, faith, expression, creativity, privacy, access to the courts, property, employment, assembly, organization, presumption of innocence and invalidity of retroactive criminal legislation.

Paragraph 19 provides: "Human rights will not be infringed, other than by a law that accords with a democratic state, and only in the required measure."

The bill goes on to create a special Consti-

tutional Court, comprising seven High Court justices, that would rule in cases where there is a prima facie conflict between other specific laws or regulations and this human rights law.

The Orthodox parties fear that this Court, working under the provision of Paragraph 19, could overturn existing or future pieces of religious legislation.

In Israel at present, as under the British system, there is no separate constitutional court - since there is not, as yet, a written constitution that requires periodic interpretation.

Agudah's Avraham Verdiger argued that the proposed bill "opens the way" to the election of a non-Jewish president; the election of non-Orthodox rabbis to official rabbinic positions; and Sabbath desecration, even in Orthodox districts.

He and other MKs insisted that the law could be interpreted as contravening the Law of Return, since that law favors Jews over others.

NORWEGIAN MEMBER OF UNIFIL ACCIDENTALLY KILLS SLA SOLDIER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- Differing accounts were given Wednesday of an altercation between Norwegian soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and troops of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army in which an SLA soldier was fatally wounded.

The confrontation occurred at Ibl-e-Saki village in the eastern sector of the southern Lebanon security zone, where UNIFIL's Norwegian contingent is headquartered.

The SLA, which has frequently complained of harassment at that point, said one of its patrols was halted at a Norwegian roadblock Wednesday and a quarrel ensued.

Meanwhile, according to the SLA, invectives hurled by both sides escalated into fistcuffs and eventually into a standoff, with the two groups of soldiers pointing their rifles at each other.

A shot was fired and an SLA soldier fell mortally wounded.

The SLA command accused the Norwegians of deliberately opening fire. The UNIFIL command accused the SLA of firing first.

According to the UNIFIL account, the Norwegian soldiers fired three warning shots into the air, and two SLA soldiers opened fire at the Norwegians from their vehicle.

The Norwegians responded by firing into the ground but a bullet ricocheted and hit an SLA soldier in the stomach. He was taken to a hospital, where he died.

EL AL POISED TO BUY SHARE IN NEWLY FORMED U.S. AIRLINE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- El Al, Israel's national air carrier, is about to acquire a 25 percent stake in a newly formed American airline, North American Airlines, whose application was approved by the U.S. government two weeks ago.

North American will begin operating out of Kennedy Airport in New York in mid-January.

Rafi Harlev, El Al's managing director, explains that the Israeli airline is seeking to get a foothold in the U.S. and Europe, as part of its strategy to prepare itself for the world of aviation that will exist after 1992, when the Economic Community will officially exist as a unified trade and economic regime.

U.S. ADMINISTRATION CONTEMPLATING NOT SELLING SUPERCOMPUTER TO ISRAEL

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- The Bush administration may not grant export licenses to U.S. companies seeking to sell supercomputers to Israel, out of concern the sophisticated equipment would be used to design nuclear weapons.

State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said last week that the administration is reviewing such applications to Israel, but that there has been no U.S. decision yet.

Boucher said requests are being "scrutinized in the same careful manner as all supercomputer export applications to countries which are not party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

Under the 1968 treaty, which Israel and South Africa have not signed, signers agree not to provide nuclear technology to countries that did not possess nuclear weapons by that date.

In addition to not signing the treaty, Israel has come under increased scrutiny following news reports alleging that it recently transferred nuclear technology to South Africa.

NBC News and the Washington Post reported in late October that Israel has supplied South Africa with technology to build a "nuclear-tipped missile." But while both reports quoted U.S. officials, the administration has publicly said there is no evidence of Israeli cooperation with Pretoria.

Boucher last week categorically denied that Israel has transferred Arrow anti-tactical ballistic missile technology to South Africa. "According to our information there has been no such transfer," Boucher said.

Allegations Over Cooperation

Allegations about Israel-South African cooperation may have been specifically leaked to influence the administration's decision on whether to sell the supercomputers to Israel.

Neither U.S. officials nor the two major U.S. supercomputer firms -- Cray Research Inc. of Minneapolis or the International Business Machines Corp. of Rockland County, N.Y. -- would state when supercomputer applications for Israel were filed or who filed them. One Commerce Department official cited a 297-day limit for ruling on export license requests.

U.S. fund-raisers for Israel's Technion Institute of Technology confirmed that it has been actively seeking a Cray supercomputer for more than a year.

In 1988, The American Society for Technion's Greater Washington and Western regions started a campaign to raise \$3.5 million to fund the supercomputer.

Julian Feldman, Washington representative of Technion's U.S. affiliate, said it has raised \$775,000 of its \$1 million goal to finance the mainframe of the supercomputer.

Meanwhile, Technion's Western U.S. region has raised about \$600,000 of its \$2.5 million goal to pay for "computerization" equipment that would complement the mainframe, said Gary Leo, the Western regional director.

A fund-raising fact sheet supplied by Feldman stated that "a project taking one month on the supercomputer would take more than eight years using Technion's current equipment."

At present, Technion scientists journey to supercomputer facilities in the United States and West Germany "to complete computations on

research projects which would take years to accomplish on the conventional computers now available to them in Haifa," according to the fact sheet.

Beyond the Technion, it remains unclear what other Israeli institutions are actively seeking U.S. supercomputers. Reuters last week reported that there were six pending applications to sell supercomputers to Israel.

A State Department official confirmed that there are other Israeli institutions seeking U.S. supercomputers, but refused to provide any names.

The Washington Times reported Nov. 3 that the Sorek Center in Israel was collaborating with Hebrew University in seeking a U.S. supercomputer.

But while Hebrew University was involved in an "initial discussion" with Cray about buying a supercomputer, that discussion "did not go very far," said Bob Wade, spokesman for American Friends of Hebrew University. Wade said Hebrew University has decided not to seek a supercomputer.

Various print media, including the Washington Times, have reported that Israel Military Industries is also seeking a U.S. supercomputer. An IMI marketing official in Washington denied the claim.

The New York Times in August singled out the Technion as the sole Israeli facility seeking a U.S. supercomputer. It also reported that two institutes in Brazil are seeking supercomputers made by IBM, and that the Indian Institute of Technology is seeking a Cray model.

India and Brazil, like Israel, have not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

CONSUMER INDEX RISES 1.8 PERCENT; HOUSING COSTS EXPECTED TO ESCALATE

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15 (JTA) -- The 1.8 percent rise in October's Consumer Price Index published here Wednesday was greeted with cautious optimism by Finance Minister Shimon Peres, who stressed that it was worse a year ago.

But Dov Lautman, chairman of the Manufacturers Association, warned that continuing inflation was eroding profitability.

The price index rose at an average annual rate of 18 percent during the first 10 months of 1989, and is expected to close the year at 20 percent inflation.

That will be cushioned by cost-of-living allowances paid most Israeli wage-earners. But they are not due until March 1990.

The latest figures surprised no one. The 0.3 percent hike in the price of winter clothing and shoes was expected.

However, the 4.25 percent rise in the cost of housing in October was more troubling, because it will escalate sharply if the anticipated influx of immigrants from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia materializes in the next few years.

Yisrael Kessar, who was re-elected Monday to a second term as secretary-general of Histadrut, urged the government to begin new housing projects immediately.

Peres, interviewed on army radio, said one solution was quicker building.

"We have to shorten the planning and bureaucracy," Peres said, adding that if "everyone would take less interest in party issues and more in state issues, the situation would improve."