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**SOVIETS REBUFF SHAMIR'S REQUEST
FOR RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES**

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union has rejected a direct request from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to restore diplomatic relations with Israel, insisting it must first deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The request was relayed to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Thursday by the Italian prime minister, Giulio Andreotti, with whom Shamir met last week, Italian government spokesman Pio Mastrobuoni disclosed at a news conference here.

Gorbachev is spending three days in Rome, prior to his shipboard summit meeting with President Bush on Saturday and Sunday.

Soviet spokesman Gennady Gerasimov summarized Gorbachev's response to the Israeli request.

"We are ready for this step on condition that the Israeli government makes steps forward in the dialogue with the PLO," he said.

Gerasimov said the Middle East would be a key subject at the summit this weekend.

Moscow severed ties with Israel after the 1967 Six-Day War. Gerasimov said their restoration has "to be viewed within the context of the normalization of the whole Middle East situation."

He said Andreotti and Gorbachev both criticized Israel for "intransigence" at their meeting.

Gerasimov stressed, however, that the Soviet Union and Israel have regular contacts, including meetings between their foreign ministers and through consular missions in their respective countries.

**PERES COLLAPSES IN WARSAW
HOURS AFTER AUSCHWITZ VISIT**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Vice Premier Shimon Peres collapsed at an official reception in Warsaw on Wednesday night, and flew back to Israel Thursday morning after spending the night at a clinic undergoing an extensive medical examination.

He was not found to be suffering from any ailment.

Peres was examined again Thursday at Sheba Hospital in Tel Aviv, and was pronounced, as he told TV viewers Thursday night, "fit and well."

Peres' brief blackout was attributed to a rigorous schedule Wednesday that included an emotionally exhausting visit to the former Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp.

The incident did not cut short Peres' three-day Polish visit, which was scheduled to end Thursday.

Peres is expected to be back at his job Sunday morning, after taking the weekend off to rest.

The 66-year-old vice premier, who is also finance minister and leader of Israel's Labor Party, was hospitalized for two weeks last month after a similar collapse while visiting Druse villages in northern Israel.

He was diagnosed then as suffering from an acute infection of the urinary tract which entered his bloodstream. He was discharged from the

Emek Hospital in Afula on Oct. 30 with a clean bill of health but continued to take antibiotics.

Peres' political adviser, Nimrod Novik, said Thursday that he was still under medication and "should not have undertaken such a heavy schedule" of meetings, which left him without time for a full meal.

Novik said that when Peres fainted at the reception, he did not lose consciousness completely. He was quickly surrounded by Polish and Israeli doctors, one of whom was the Polish minister of health, Dr. Andrzej Kosiniak-Kamysz.

Peres recovered himself almost immediately and insisted on walking to the ambulance that had been called.

Close To Tears

Novik said the Israeli minister was close to tears at Auschwitz.

Peres called for the speedy removal of a Carmelite convent from the Auschwitz grounds, in compliance with a promise the Catholic Church made to Jewish leaders nearly three years ago.

"I raised the issue with the Polish government and they have promised to deal with it," he told reporters who accompanied him to Auschwitz.

He spoke movingly of the significance of the site, where 1.35 million Jews perished during the war.

"It is like a journey into death, a journey into the Holocaust itself," Peres said.

He may have been referring not only to Auschwitz but to Poland's historic anti-Semitism, when he spoke of "this land which is soaked with Jewish culture, but is saturated through and through with Jewish blood."

Some of Peres' hosts broached the subject of anti-Semitism obliquely.

Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity trade union movement, told his guest, "Your nation is a nation that has suffered the most in the last thousand years. We want you to remember that Poland was the home of many Jews in the last thousand years."

He spoke of Poland in the past as a country of two peoples. He begged Israelis to "come and visit us, feel at home," now that diplomatic relations between the two countries are expected to be normalized.

**ISRAEL WEIGHS LEBANON INTERVENTION
IF SECURITY IS THREATENED BY SYRIA**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Israel has served notice that it will intervene in Lebanon if its security is threatened by Syrian efforts to remove Gen. Michel Aoun from his heavily fortified Christian enclave in Beirut.

The Israelis are particularly concerned by the appearance of Syrian air force jets over Beirut, and consider any challenge to Israel's longstanding control of the air over Lebanon to be a threat to its security.

The commander of Israel's air force, Maj. Gen. Avihu Bin-Nun, warned that an inadvertent clash could occur.

"There is no doubt that entering Lebanon could bring unwanted confrontations between our planes, which fly regularly over Lebanon, and

Syrian planes that enter by surprise," he said in an address to the Tel Aviv WIZO Club on Wednesday.

Bin-Nun explained that while Syria has refrained from flying over Lebanon until recently, this has changed because of Syrian preparations to attack Aoun's stronghold, creating a potentially dangerous situation.

Aoun, a militant Maronite Christian who claims he is president of Lebanon and supreme commander of its army, refuses to recognize the authority of the Syrian-backed government of President Elias Hrawi.

"We are trying not to let the Lebanese get us mixed up in an unintentional war, and I hope we will succeed," Bin-Nun said.

Another warning to Syria was sounded in the Knesset on Wednesday by Likud minister Ronni Milo, who said Israel would reserve its freedom of action and response in Lebanon if its vital interests were endangered there.

Contact With Western Powers

Milo, who is minister of environmental protection, spoke in reply to an agenda motion at the request of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who had to leave the session.

Diplomatic sources in Jerusalem said Thursday that Israel was in contact with Western powers to persuade the Soviet Union and other countries friendly to Syria to warn Damascus against any hasty actions in Lebanon.

Although the Foreign Ministry has not confirmed those reports, they surfaced on the eve of the first summit meeting between President Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Malta on Saturday and Sunday.

Bin-Nun claimed that the Soviet Union, under Gorbachev, is selling more weapons, and more sophisticated weapons, to countries like Syria, Iraq and Libya than were sold before he came to power.

Meanwhile, in Washington, the State Department said that it has "seen reports that the Syrians are reinforcing their units in the Beirut area," and have "counseled all those concerned against the use of force."

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said that the United States has "contacted the Lebanese government, key European allies, Arab friends, the Soviet Union and Syria to express our support for President Hrawi and our wish that the process of reconciliation continue through peaceful means."

When asked if Israel was also contacted, she replied, "I am sure they have."

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

ARABS INTRODUCE U.N. RESOLUTION THAT WOULD ELEVATE PLO STATUS

By Allison Kaplan

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- A resolution elevating the status of the Palestine Liberation Organization to that of an observer state was introduced on the floor of the General Assembly late Thursday afternoon.

The resolution states that since the PLO "has the powers and responsibilities of the Provisional Government of the State of Palestine," the current Palestine observer mission "shall be construed within the United Nations as the State of Palestine."

The measure, which was drafted by the Arab

bloc, has been vigorously opposed by the United States, which has threatened to cut off its contribution to the U.N. budget if the resolution is approved.

European nations also oppose the measure, and there are indications that neither the Soviets nor the Egyptians would like to see it passed.

There is word that Western diplomats are considering a strategy of tabling the move using a parliamentary rule which would indefinitely postpone a vote on the resolution. The same tactic has been used to counter attacks on Israel's U.N. credentials.

On Wednesday, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization voted in Rome to cooperate closely with the PLO.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Margaret Tutwiler said Wednesday that as a result of this vote, along with other moves by the FAO, the issue of whether the United States would continue to fund the agency "is being seriously discussed" by the Bush administration.

U.S. STILL WAITING ON EGYPT TO ACCEPT FIVE-POINT PLAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- The United States will not consider any assurances sought by Egypt for Israeli-Palestinian talks until Cairo accepts Secretary of State James Baker's five-point proposal for such talks, the State Department reiterated Thursday.

Baker spoke Thursday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid, their second telephone conversation this week, but the Egyptians are still unable "to give us an official yes," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said.

"If the Egyptians want clarifications or some side understandings, we would be prepared, just as we have been with the Israelis, to discuss them, but only after we have reached a definite yes to the five points," Tutwiler said.

Israel's Inner Cabinet accepted Baker's five points, but included a request for six assurances. The most important were that the Israel-Palestinian talks deal only with setting up an election for Palestinians in the territories, and that the Palestine Liberation Organization be excluded from any part in the negotiating process.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir failed to receive the assurances he sought when he met with President Bush and Baker here Nov. 15.

Baker has indicated that he would deal with requests for clarification when both sides have accepted his five points.

But Egypt, which has been consulting with the PLO, is reportedly asking for assurances that would be diametrically opposed to those sought by Israel.

Egypt wants the Palestinian delegation to include representatives from East Jerusalem and at least two Palestinians from outside the West Bank.

Egypt also wants the negotiations to discuss broader issues, including the PLO's demand for a Palestinian state.

Shamir would have the negotiations only involve the modalities of Palestinian elections, in which representatives of the West Bank and Gaza Strip would choose representatives to negotiate with Israel on autonomy.

The PLO has publicly denounced Baker's proposals. It insists on participating in the negotiations and wants to choose the Palestinian delegates.

CIA DOCUMENT INDICATES AGENCY KNEW ABOUT WALDHEIM'S WARTIME RECORD

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- A document that has been in the files of the Central Intelligence Agency since its inception in 1947 indicates that the agency knew Kurt Waldheim was a German army intelligence officer during World War II.

The document, dated April 26, 1945, was known to exist even as the United States was voting to confirm Waldheim as secretary-general of the United Nations in 1971.

The document, said to be an Office of Strategic Services record of interrogation of a German prisoner, was obtained by the World Jewish Congress from government sources in a European country, said WJC's Executive Director, Elan Steinberg.

The prisoner supposedly gave descriptions of German intelligence officers, including Waldheim.

The CIA has denied having any information that could have prevented Waldheim from being elected U.N. secretary-general, the WJC said.

The WJC said the CIA had refused repeated requests under the Freedom of Information Act to provide any documents it had on Waldheim.

"In response to repeated requests under the Freedom of Information," said Mark Mansfield, spokesman for the CIA, "the CIA has acknowledged the existence of a document in OSS files dated April 26, 1945, containing information on Waldheim."

"This document cannot be released under FIOA because it was acquired from a foreign government under guarantees of confidentiality. It is simply not correct to draw the conclusion that a FIOA denial on these grounds is a CIA 'cover-up.'"

A government source who would not be identified confirmed that "the document is authentic."

In June 1987, the CIA informed the WJC in writing that a search of its records had produced "one document," which was an Office of Strategic Services report dated April 2, 1945.

Received From Foreign Government

It would not release the document, but said its information came from "a foreign government," the WJC said.

"It is now clear that besides the U.S., one or more other countries were aware of Waldheim's concealed past," Steinberg said.

The document provided by the WJC also contradicts information provided by the CIA to Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), who was conducting his own investigation into why the United States did not try to block the Waldheim nomination.

Solarz requested information about Waldheim in 1980, reportedly after reading an article in The New Republic that stated that Waldheim had been a member of the Nazi student union.

Solarz asked the CIA to comment on any Nazi affiliations Waldheim might have had. The CIA denied it had detailed intelligence on Waldheim's military service, only that Waldheim had been "discharged from military duties" in 1941 and "returned to study law in Vienna."

A spokesman for Solarz said the congressman had not yet reviewed the document and could not therefore comment.

But, he said, "it certainly raises very large questions of what happened at the CIA," ques-

tions "which Congressman Solarz intends to pursue very vigorously."

During Waldheim's long diplomatic career, and in his published memoirs, "In the Eye of the Storm," he claimed he was in the German cavalry, was wounded in the leg in 1941 at the Russian front and returned to Vienna to pursue law studies. He also said he had no affiliations to Nazi organizations.

Major discrepancies in Waldheim's account of his wartime experiences came to light beginning in March 1986, when he was nominated to the presidency of Austria.

Documents from the Austrian War Archives show that Waldheim was a member of the Nazi "Brownshirts" and the National Socialist Student Organization.

Subsequent papers that were found showed Waldheim was attached to a German army unit in the Balkans that conducted fierce reprisals against Yugoslav partisans.

SOVIET OFFICIAL ADMITS A PROBLEM: GLASNOST GIVES RISE TO ANTI-SEMITES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- An official of the Soviet Academy of Sciences has admitted that along with more liberal attitudes, the new freedom of glasnost has given rise to an increase of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

Dr. Tatiana Karasova, head of the academy's Israel desk and now visiting Israel, also said at a news conference Tuesday that Moscow no longer predicated renewed ties with Israel on Israel's agreement to an international conference on the Middle East.

"The ties could be resumed either before the start of negotiations between the two sides in the Middle East or concurrently with them," she said.

Karasova said she would recommend when she returns home that Moscow resume diplomatic relations with Israel. "But I cannot say when that will happen," she added.

Meanwhile, Karasova thought the two countries should strengthen their mutual cooperation in all fields.

The academician, who has spent 15 years researching Israel's affairs and policies, was invited to Israel by the Information Department of the World Zionist Organization.

Karasova heads a 15-member team of researchers at the Moscow Institute who undertake projects at the request of the Kremlin or other official bodies.

Karasova, identifying the sources of the anti-Semitism that has accompanied glasnost, explained in a Jerusalem Post article that there are two opposing trends in Soviet life today, and their most serious area of disagreement relates to the "Jewish question."

The "Zapadniki," or Westerners, are pressing for the "democratization and humanization" of Soviet society and rapprochement with the West.

The "Pochveniki," a name derived from the Russian word for soil, call for new government policies in favor of "native populations," meaning Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians.

They are pressing for a return to "folk" traditions in culture and intellectual life as opposed to the "spoiling influence" of "inhuman" Western culture.

Karasova said the "Pochveniki" are in the vanguard of anti-Semitic trends in Soviet life, given the freedom of expression granted by glasnost.

CHANGES IN CZECH JEWISH COMMUNITY MIRROR RAPID CHANGES IN COUNTRY

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Caught up in the rapid bid for freedom in Czechoslovakia, a leader of the Jewish community who was criticized for supporting the Communist regime has resigned his post.

Bohumil Heller, who was president of the Council of Jewish Religious Communities in Bohemia and Moravia, resigned his position Monday, partially in response to a petition circulated that day among the Jewish Community in Prague.

However, the secretary of the entire Council of Jewish Religious communities of Czechoslovakia, who was also asked to step down, did not do so.

Frantisek Kraus was re-elected to be acting secretary of the Jewish community until special elections are held in April, the World Jewish Congress reported.

Also, Arnost Neufeld was elected acting vice president. This leadership will continue until the special elections, when Heller's position will be filled.

The moves were announced Wednesday at a special two-and-a-half-hour session of the Jewish community's plenary council, which is the leadership of the Czech Jewish community.

The council normally meets only twice a year. Wednesday's meeting was called to address the petition, drawn up at a time of a popular revolt for freedom in Czechoslovakia.

There will be a special meeting of the plenary council on Sunday with the youth of the Jewish community, said Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director.

Visited Two Weeks Ago

The WJC visited that country two weeks ago and met with leaders of both the Jewish community and the Communist government, some of whom are now no longer in power.

"What you see in the Czech Jewish community is a mirror of what is happening in the general Czech population," said Steinberg.

The changes come as the Communist Party is voluntarily relinquishing its 41-year monopoly on power in the country and allowing non-Communist ministers into a new Cabinet, which is to be named Sunday.

Steinberg said Heller, an elderly man, resigned in part because of poor health. He made his resignation by phone.

Kraus and Victor Feuerlicht, the cantor at the Altneuschul and president of the Prague Jewish community, will travel to Heller's home, about 75 miles from Prague, "to accept Heller's resignation and present him with a resolution of appreciation of his service to the Jewish community," Steinberg said.

Kraus told the WJC that the group that requested his resignation did not provide a majority of necessary signatures. He was re-elected as provisional secretary by 19 of the 20 council members present.

Kraus said that the members of the council praised him for his service in the Hagana and subsequent imprisonment.

Kraus went to Palestine after World War II and fought in the War of Independence. In the 1950s, after he returned to Czechoslovakia, he was arrested for his Zionist activities and spent about seven years in prison.

Yet Kraus and Heller, since taking office in 1985, issued statements sharply critical of the Israeli government.

In May, a group of 25 young Jews sent a letter to Kraus, complaining that the community leadership was too subservient to the Communist regime.

They warned that Jewish life in Czechoslovakia was "in danger of extinction."

On Wednesday, Rabbi Arthur Schneier of New York, who visited Czechoslovakia in September as president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "I was very impressed with the youths' concern for Jewish education, for their children and youth in general."

Schneier said the youth, "thirsting for Jewish books," presented him with a long request list of Jewish and Hebrew books not available in the country.

GORBACHEV PROPOSES REDUCING FORCES IN MIDDLE EAST DURING TALKS IN ITALY

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev proposed an international conference on cutting the presence of superpower naval forces in the Mediterranean, during his talks with Italian officials on the first day of a three-day visit to Italy.

That proposal -- a possible preview of what he may propose at his summit with President Bush this weekend -- as well as overall Mediterranean security and the situation in the Middle East were among the topics discussed by the officials on Wednesday.

"We are following with an attentive eye the entire Mediterranean, cradle of not only European but also Arab . . . and Jewish history. The people of our country over the course of centuries have received something from each of them," Gorbachev said in a banquet toast at a state dinner Wednesday night.

"Today the Mediterranean is still a zone from which our security depends . . . whatever happens in this extremely important area of the world touches us deeply," he said.

The Soviet leader noted that Italy and the Soviet Union were both anxious to see progress toward a settlement in the Middle East.

Earlier, Soviet spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said the Middle East situation had been discussed in talks between Shevardnadze and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis.

Gerasimov said they discussed the situation in Lebanon, noting that the Soviet side "pointed out that all efforts must be made to reach a national consensus."

Syria "is playing a positive role in Lebanon in the sense that they are not trying to stay on forever," Gerasimov said, adding that in the broader Middle East framework, both sides agreed that dialogue between Israel and the PLO must be established.

"There was concern that Israel ignores the existence of the PLO," he said.

Terrorism was also discussed, including "the danger of extremism and the need to control it before it has a wider impact."

An Italian spokesman said "terrorism is a problem that must find a solution," adding that "the situation is favorable to reach a solution in the Middle East. We must exert pressure on all parties in order that they come to an agreement."