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## EGYPT CAN'T REPRESENT PALESTINIANS IN TALKS WITH ISRAEL, ARAFAT-INSISTS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- Yasir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has again publicly rejected the notion that Egypt can represent the Palestinians in talks with the United States and Israel.

"Nobody has the right to speak in our name," Arafat said in an interview broadcast Sunday on the NBC-TV program "Meet The Press." The interview with Arafat was taped Saturday in Baghdad, Iraq.

Arafat's comments appear to contradict the impression in Washington that Egypt had at least tacit approval from the PLO when it informed the United States last week that it accepted Secretary of State James Baker's five-point proposal for initial talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

The State Department would not state this outright, except to say that everyone knows that Egypt is talking to the PLO.

Some analysts have speculated that the PLO is pursuing a double-edged strategy of giving the Egyptians a green light privately while publicly insisting that the PLO must be involved in selecting the Palestinian delegation that will negotiate with Israel.

Having won acceptance by both Egypt and Israel of the five-point plan, Baker is now trying to arrange a meeting in Washington with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid.

The meeting, expected to take place early in the new year, will discuss ways of bringing about the preliminary talks, including the selection of the Palestinian delegation.

### Making Peace With The Enemy

Arafat said that the three foreign ministers are free to discuss the camp David agreements. "But if they are speaking about the Palestinians, the Palestinians have to represent themselves. I have nothing to do with this meeting."

During the interview, Arafat frequently answered questions by asking questions of his own. He said, for instance, "I would like to ask if there is a Soviet Union-American delegation, can you accept that the Soviet Union government will designate the American delegation?"

"The Palestinians and their leadership have the right to designate their representatives as well as the Israeli government," he maintained.

Israeli leaders have steadfastly rejected any negotiations with the PLO. But Arafat asked, "With whom are they going to make peace? I am going to make peace with my enemy."

He said that when the United States agreed to open a dialogue with the PLO in December 1988, Washington accepted "that the PLO represents the Palestinian people."

Arafat asserted that he wants "peace for all of us, peace for Palestinian children, and for Israeli children" in the "land of peace."

He also pointed out that the 1988 Palestine National Council resolution declaring a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip call for a confederation with Jordan once that state is established.

## EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ATTACKS ISRAEL'S REPRESSIVE POLICY IN THE TERRITORIES

By Yossi Lempkowicz

STRASBOURG, France, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- The European Community has lashed out at Israel's alleged human rights violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, at a time when the United States is moving closer toward bringing Israelis and Palestinians to the bargaining table.

After a two-day summit here, the leaders of the 12 nations of the European Community issued a statement Saturday calling on Israel to "abandon its repressive policy in the occupied territories."

The communique could not have pleased Washington, coming as it did just after the Bush administration won backing from both Egypt and Israel for Secretary of State James Baker's five-point proposal for preliminary talks between Israel and a Palestinian delegation.

The Americans clearly do not relish European interference at this stage, especially as their allies are openly skeptical of the U.S. initiative's chances to succeed.

French President Francois Mitterrand, who currently chairs the community, has backed the Baker plan, and the other E.C. leaders are expected to follow suit.

But the E.C. leaders hope the Baker initiative will lead toward an international peace conference, which they consider the only way to a comprehensive settlement in the region.

The United States is dubious and the Israelis are fiercely opposed to the conference scenario.

The Israelis distrust the Europeans, whom they consider pro-Arab, and would like them to stay out of the unfolding process altogether. But they have failed to persuade the E.C. to remain on the sidelines.

### Geneva Convention Cited

The Arabs on the other hand, including Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat, insist the 12-member-state E.C. must play an active role.

The so-called "troika" of E.C. ministers designated to conduct Middle East diplomacy was encouraged to do this on its visits last month to Tunis and Cairo. They are the foreign ministers of Spain, France and Ireland, the past, current and future chairmen respectively of the E.C. Council of Ministers.

The three also met last month with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and reportedly asked him to show "political flexibility" in the peace process.

The E.C. leadership met here late last week, for its traditional year-end summit. It was the final occasion for France to wield its influence as chair of the 12-nation body. The rotating office goes to Ireland next month.

The two-day gathering coincided with the second anniversary of the outbreak of the intifada, as the Arabs call their uprising against the Israeli presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians received strong moral support.

Mark Eyskens, the Belgian foreign minister, admitted to reporters that the E.C. statement on

the Middle East was "a tough text for Israel, but encouraging for the Palestinians, particularly in the territories."

It reminded Israel of the need "for the occupying power to respect strictly the obligations arising from the Fourth Geneva Convention" of 1949, which governs the behavior of nations occupying civilian populations during wartime.

Israel was accused of not abiding by the convention "in sectors as essential as education and health."

The Europeans also deplored "the continuous deterioration of the situation in the territories, which affects gravely the conditions of life of the population, jeopardizes tangibly the future of the Palestinian society and hinders the economic and social development of the territories."

#### Will Increase Economic Aid

In that connection, the E.C. pledged to increase substantially its economic aid to the residents of the territories.

That resolve apparently was the result of a report recently submitted by a mission of E.C. experts who visited the West Bank and Gaza Strip to study conditions.

The E.C. commissioner for Mediterranean affairs said the additional European aid to the territories would mainly be used for education and to promote trade.

He said it was important to increase E.C. aid to education, because the Israelis have shut down all of the Arab universities in the territories, a move condemned by the E.C.

The E.C., through its European Commission, has asked Israel to lift the tariffs and fiscal measures which, it says, are an obstacle to increased aid.

The E.C. commissioner also promised to help Palestinian farmers to export their products to the E.C. market. The Palestinians have been allowed, since 1988, to export directly to Europe, bypassing the official Israeli export agencies.

But the results have been far below expectations, largely because of the Arabs' lack of experience in export management. The Palestinians are complaining that the Israeli authorities sabotaged their first seasonal shipment of grapes to Europe.

#### **ISRAEL SENDS CABINET SECRETARY TO ARRANGE TRILATERAL MEETING** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein will be dispatched to Washington next weekend to start arrangements for the meeting Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is to have there with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid of Egypt.

The trilateral parley, expected to take place within the next few weeks, is intended to lay the groundwork for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo early next year.

That scenario came alive with the announcement in Washington last week that Egypt accepted Baker's five-point guidelines for the dialogue. Israel's Inner Cabinet of senior ministers accepted the plan on Nov. 5.

The decision to send Rubinstein was made by the four most senior ministers: Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Vice Premier Shimon Peres, Arens and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The Foreign Ministry promptly informed the

State Department of Rubinstein's role.

But Shamir was testy. He told the Cabinet on Sunday that the Americans have still failed to transmit the text of the Egyptian response to Baker's plan, even though Arens specifically requested it.

The Egyptian reply, like the Israeli response a month before, was hedged with "assumptions."

Given Cairo's intermediary role, the hedges undoubtedly reflect the Palestine Liberation Organization's positions, which the Americans may feel would not advance the process if made known to Jerusalem at this time.

One of Israel's main assumptions in accepting Baker's points was that it could refuse to deal directly or indirectly with the PLO.

#### Likud Hard-Liners Mobilizing

Meanwhile, the triumvirate of Likud hard-liners opposed to the Baker plan is calling for a meeting of the party's Central Committee to be held before Arens leaves for his three-way meeting.

It is apparently the intention of Ariel Sharon, David Levy and Yitzhak Moda'i to get a mandate from the party to saddle Arens with a new set of conditions.

Levy, a deputy premier who is minister of construction and housing, and Moda'i, the minister of economics and planning, told reporters after the Cabinet meeting that the Egyptian reply to Baker was not drafted by Egypt, but by the PLO.

They and Sharon, who is minister of industry and trade, oppose Shamir's idea for Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The dialogue in Cairo is supposed to hammer out arrangements for those elections.

#### **FOUR DEAD IN SCATTERED VIOLENCE ON SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF INTIFADA** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- Curfews kept about a million Palestinians confined to their homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Saturday, the second anniversary of the intifada, as their uprising is known.

But Palestinians staged protest marches in several places, and four died, two at the hands of soldiers and two killed apparently by Israeli civilians.

A violent clash occurred in the West Bank village of Bani Naim, near Hebron. The Israel Defense Force opened fire, killing a man and a woman.

Arab sources in Hebron said an Israeli civilian shot a 15-year-old boy to death after his car was stoned.

A preliminary inquiry indicated no IDF soldiers were present at the time. The police are checking the circumstances of the shooting.

An oil truck driver and two civilian security guards who were with him are under investigation for the fatal shooting Sunday morning of a Palestinian youth in the Gaza Strip.

The driver was arrested in Ashkelon. The guards had their weapons confiscated for ballistic tests. They said they opened fire because the truck was being pelted with stones at a gasoline station.

In Jerusalem, about 3,500 supporters of the Peace Now movement gathered for a rally. They called for an end to violence in the territories and a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

## ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW SWAMPED WITH REQUESTS FOR IMMIGRATION VISAS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- The wave of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union may turn out to be far larger than Israeli officials had anticipated.

Israeli authorities are issuing invitations to Soviet Jews contemplating aliyah at the rate of 2,500 a day, officials here report.

In Moscow, the Israeli consular delegation is swamped, now that most barriers to emigration have been lifted. As many as 1,200 people wait in line outside to apply for Israeli visas.

"We are talking about an exodus. The sky's the limit," a senior official told reporters here over the weekend.

A total of 90,000 Jews will leave the Soviet Union in 1990, and officials expect 50,000 of them to come to Israel.

They base that estimate, in part, on the 50,000 ceiling the United States has placed on the number of Soviet refugees it will admit during this fiscal year. Of this number, 40,000 are expected to be Jews.

Jews are leaving the Soviet Union in greater numbers in part because the recent emigration reforms make it much easier to do so. But they are also leaving because glasnost has allowed anti-Semitism to flourish.

Soviet Jews also fear that President Mikhail Gorbachev's grip on leadership is becoming shaky. They want to leave before reforms that have benefited them are reversed.

Jewish emigration also has been spurred by the ethnic unrest and the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the Soviet Asian republics. The rapid departure of 250,000 Jews living in those areas would be given top priority, officials here said.

It is now believed here that the Jewish population of the Soviet Union has been undercounted and that there is a far larger base for emigration.

While the Soviet census estimates 1.8 million Jews, the true figure is believed to be between 3 million and 3.6 million.

Israel expects 750,000 to come to Israel in the next six years. Israeli invitations are already in the hands of 150,000.

More than 63,000 Jews have left the Soviet Union so far this year. While a larger proportion have come to Israel than in past years, the vast majority has settled elsewhere, mainly the United States.

## WALDHEIM MEETS ARAFAT IN TUNISIA

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- Austrian President Kurt Waldheim made a three-day visit to Tunisia last week, which included a meeting with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

Waldheim, accompanied by Foreign Minister Alois Mock and Austrian businessmen, also met with his Tunisian counterpart, President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali.

According to the Austrian press agency APA, Waldheim used the occasion of that meeting to criticize Israel's "brutal suppression of the intifada."

He described Israel as the chief obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

Waldheim also met with the secretary-general of the Arab League, Chedli Klibi.

## FINTA'S LAWYER DISPUTES TESTIMONY OF TWO ISRAELI HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- The defense strategy in Canada's first war-crimes trial emerged last week when two Holocaust survivors from Israel testified before the Ontario Supreme Court here.

Defense counsel Douglas Christie sought to discredit them and to justify the treatment of Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe as a wartime measure now used by Israel against the Palestinians.

The defendant, Imre Finta, 77, was an officer during World War II in the Nazi-controlled Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie.

The former restaurateur from Hamilton, Ontario, has been charged on eight counts, including theft of personal property, kidnapping, manslaughter and forcibly confining 8,617 Jews deported from Szeged, Hungary, in 1944.

Testifying in Hebrew through interpreters, witnesses Meir Schweiger and Mordechai Schnitzer each told of being confined to boxcars for days. Schweiger was sent to Birkenau and Schnitzer to the Strasshof camp in Austria.

Christie tried to cast doubt on the witnesses' credibility. When Schnitzer recalled that the prisoners were freezing when they arrived at Birkenau, the defense lawyer contended that the transfer occurred at the end of June, when it would have been hot.

## Calls Jews 'Security Risks'

Christie said Schweiger was either lying or confused when he pointed to Finta as the man who introduced himself to Jews in the Szeged ghetto by saying, "I am Imre Finta. I am in charge here."

Similarly, Christie claimed Schnitzer must have been "hallucinating" when he said he saw his grandmother removed dead from a boxcar. He also disputed the witnesses' story of being locked in the car for six days, with 80 or 90 other people.

Christie sought to explain the roundup and deportation of Jews on June 17, 1944, as reasonable in wartime. "Is it not true that in Israel today, Palestinians are detained without trial?" he asked.

"Were not the Jews security risks, and is it not customary in time of war for such people to be detained?" Christie remarked.

Presiding Judge Archie Campbell ordered the lawyer to abandon that line of questioning.

## SHAMIR TO UNDERGO HERNIA SURGERY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was admitted Sunday to Hadassah-Hebrew University Hospital in Ein Kerem, where he will undergo surgery for a hernia on Tuesday or Wednesday.

His spokesman, Avi Pazner, said the operation was "not serious."

A hospital official said it had been planned for some time and that Shamir was expected to remain in the hospital for several days after surgery.

He will continue his duties even while hospitalized, the Prime Minister's Office said. A spokesman explained that the prime minister delegates his powers only when he is out of the country or is incapacitated.

## JEWES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA SUCCEED IN OUSTING HARD-LINE LEADERSHIP

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- Like the Civic Forum movement that succeeded Sunday in wresting control of the Czechoslovak government from the Communists, the Jewish community of Prague apparently has ridden itself of hard-line leaders appointed by the government and begun installing replacements of its own choosing.

The move, which took place at an extraordinary community meeting on Dec. 3, appears to have rehabilitated a veteran of Jewish life in Czechoslovakia who had found disfavor with the authorities in recent years.

According to unconfirmed reports, some 200 members of the community gathered in Prague's Jewish town hall that day to demand the removal of the country's official Jewish leadership. They voted unanimously to elect Desider Galsky president of the Council of Jewish Religious Communities in Bohemia and Moravia, following which the council's entire board resigned.

Galsky replaces Bohumil Heller, who resigned his position at a stormy meeting of the council's board four days before, then tried to rescind it.

The community also deposed its secretary-general, Frantisek Kraus, a government choice who was evidently widely despised. He will remain through year's end in a caretaker position, managing the community's affairs until a new executive can be found.

"We have democracy now. We are really free," Galsky proclaimed triumphantly in a telephone interview last week.

Indeed, the overturning of four decades of government-regulated Jewish life in Czechoslovakia appear to parallel the momentous transformation of the country's entire political system.

Galsky, 68, who was president of the Council of Jewish Religious Communities from 1980 to 1985, was clearly overjoyed by the extraordinary changes that have engulfed his country.

### An 'Unbelievable' Revolution

"I am a historian. I can tell you that in modern Europe you cannot find a revolution like this, made by young students, from the universities and the high schools, in such an elegant, distinguished way.

"Not one window was broken, not one car was demolished. It is unbelievable," he said.

The Jewish community meeting was extraordinary, Galsky explained, because there was "no curator from the government. This is the first time (a decision) was made freely, in a democratic way. We had no intentions to ask anybody about it."

During the meeting, Czechoslovak Jews criticized not only individual leaders, "but the whole board for their activities in the last years," Galsky said.

He said it had been "the first time in the modern history of the Czech Jews (that) we had leaders on such a low level; not educated people, no feelings for religious questions. They couldn't even be called to the Torah. They didn't even know the brachas (blessings)."

Until now, he said, "somebody" from the government would come with a prepared speech for the Jewish leaders to give. "I could never agree with this, that they would write for me a speech," he said.

At the meeting, "the board did nothing to

stop" the people, "and therefore they came up with the idea that the whole board would resign."

However, the 24 members of the board, or plenary council, will remain in place until elections are held, at a date tentatively set for Feb. 15.

### Cultural Activities For The Young

Galsky explained that the various Czechoslovak communities needed time to elect individual delegates, who needed at least a month to attend meetings.

Galsky said he will hold a community-wide meeting Dec. 17 and a smaller meeting even earlier with a committee of young people, to discuss what to do for them.

"One of the ideas is to create a club of young people," as well as "friends of the Jewish cultural life, meaning non-Jewish people," he said. He planned to announce his plans Sunday in Paris, at a board meeting of the European Jewish Congress.

The changes "mean we can have cultural things and not ask official permission. For example, on Purim, we can have performances, teach the Hebrew language. Maybe we can invite someone from abroad," he said, outlining ideas considered revolutionary for Jewish life here.

Galsky, who was deposed by Kraus, is now getting his revenge. He decided not to accede to Kraus' wish to return to his original post, managing the kosher kitchen, "because mainly every person is against him.

"So we agreed he should do something else," the new community president said. "He should manage the cemeteries, (so as) not to be in contact with people."

### KRISTALLNACHT MAY BECOME HOLIDAY TO CELEBRATE BERLIN WALL OPENING

By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 10 (JTA) -- An official of the opposition Social Democratic Party has warned against allowing joy over the opening of the Berlin Wall to erase the memory of Jewish suffering during the Nazi era.

Heinz Putzrath, who chairs the SPD's committee of Nazi survivors, spoke out last week against proposals to make Nov. 9, the day the East German regime opened the wall, a national holiday in West Germany.

He pointed out that the day is the anniversary of the notorious Kristallnacht, the first government-sanctioned pogrom in Nazi Germany, which occurred on the night of Nov. 9, 1938.

Hundreds of Jews were murdered and thousands were injured on that occasion, as Jewish homes, businesses and synagogues were destroyed all over the Reich while crowds of citizens applauded.

Since the wall was opened, public officials have been urging that the date be officially designated a holiday to mark an historic event in the modern history of Germany.

But Putzrath argued that it must not be stripped of its special character of remembrance. He pointed out that there are other suitable dates to celebrate the symbolic razing of the wall.

Most observers believe its occurrence on Nov. 9 was fortuitous, as the faltering Communist regime was already under intense popular pressure to open the borders. In fact, some passages through the wall remained closed on Nov. 9, while others were opened.