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**POLAND BECOMES 3RD IN EAST EUROPE TO RESTORE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL**
**By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- Poland and Israel resumed full diplomatic relations Tuesday at ceremonies in Warsaw.

Poland thereby became the third Eastern European country to restore ties with Israel severed in the aftermath of the Six-Day War nearly 23 years ago.

Hungary was the first to resume relations with Israel last September. Czechoslovakia followed on Feb. 9. Romania never broke diplomatic ties.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his Polish counterpart, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, technically signed a protocol Tuesday elevating the present low-level interests sections the countries maintain in Warsaw and Tel Aviv respectively to full-fledged embassies.

The heads of those interests sections automatically became the accredited ambassadors. Israel's envoy to Warsaw, Mordechai Palzur, took part in Tuesday's signing ceremony.

Arens said after the ceremony that Israel would assist Poland in the economic field and hoped Poland would support Israel diplomatically in the international arena.

The Israeli foreign minister was accompanied to Poland by a large delegation of Israeli industrialists and business leaders. They contacted Polish business leaders and institutions to discuss mutual trade and investments in Poland.

**Transit Point For Soviet Jews**

An immediate benefit for Israel is Poland's expressed willingness to allow stopover privileges for Soviet Jews immigrating to Israel.

The Polish authorities said they would allow the Jewish Agency for Israel to station representatives in Warsaw to help the Jews in transit and that accommodations would be available at hotels and guest houses.

Until the Soviet authorities allow direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, Soviet Jews en route to Israel need a transit point in a third country.

The Israeli daily Davar reported Tuesday that the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Arab League have told Poland that they are not against the restoration of ties.

But the Arab League's secretary-general, Chedli Klibi, is said to have asked Poland not to allow its Jewish citizens to immigrate to Israel, for fear they will settle in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

In Warsaw, Arens spent Tuesday meeting with ranking Polish government officials, including President Wojciech Jaruzelski and Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

At a dinner for Arens on Monday night, Foreign Minister Skubiszewski said it had been a mistake to cut diplomatic ties with Israel in 1967. He said his government regretted it, even though it had nothing to do with the breach.

Arens observed that it is difficult for an Israeli to visit Eastern European countries, "because they are the graveyard of the Jewish people."

**RABIN SAYS ISRAEL LIKELY TO APPROVE PEACE TALKS FORMULA WITHIN 10 DAYS**
**By Allison Kaplan**

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet is likely to approve the latest formula for preliminary talks with a Palestinian delegation within a week to 10 days, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told visiting American Jewish leaders Tuesday.

But he also warned that if Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir allows the right wing of his Likud bloc to pressure him into rejecting the proposal, the unity government will not remain intact.

"If there is a four-point plan accepted by the Palestinians and Egyptians -- presented to us through the good offices of the United States -- and we would be the obstacle, this cannot be acceptable at least to half of the Israeli government," Rabin told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"Israel has to take risks, not only at war, but also for peace," he told the conference, which is holding its annual seminar in Israel.

Rabin echoed remarks made to the same group Monday night by Vice Premier Shimon Peres, who said his Labor Party has no problem accepting the new compromise formula on the inclusion in the negotiating delegation of East Jerusalem residents and Palestinians deported from the territories.

The formula says that East Jerusalem participants would have to maintain residences in the administered territories and that the deportees would first have to have been readmitted to the territories.

**Warns Of Growing Arab Collusion**

Rabin said he was confident that the proposal would lead initially to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's long delayed meeting with the foreign ministers of Israel and Egypt, and later to a meeting between Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo.

He reiterated his intention to exercise his authority as defense minister to repatriate deportees if it serves the peace process. "It will not be the first time" that deportees have been permitted to return, Rabin said, "for political purposes."

In one of several oblique swipes at renegade Likud minister Ariel Sharon, Rabin pointed out that Sharon himself brought back a deportee to serve as the mayor of the West Bank town of El-Bireh during his tenure as defense minister.

His concession that East Jerusalemites would make acceptable negotiating partners came in a roundabout fashion. The Palestinians "must be registered as a territories resident," he said. "But if they have an address or an apartment in East Jerusalem, I don't mind."

Rabin also warned the visiting Jewish leaders of the growing danger of Arab cooperation, citing recent military cooperation between Iraq and Jordan as a danger signal.

The Arab states have coalesced on the subject of massive Soviet immigration to Israel, because it is "an issue on which the Arab countries can be united."

"Before this was brought up," he said,

"there was no subject vis-a-vis Israel on which Arabs could agree."

The subject of settling Soviet immigrants in the West Bank came up Monday night in a private session delegates of the Conference of Presidents held with the U.S. ambassador to Israel, William Brown.

#### Envoy Cites West Bank Study

Brown "understood that the Israeli government is not deliberately settling" Soviet olim in the West Bank, said Ruth Popkin, president of the Jewish National Fund, who took part in the session.

But Brown listed a number of financial benefits that all Israelis who settle in the West Bank receive, which were compiled in previous studies by Meron Benvenisti's West Bank Data Project.

After meeting with Brown, the delegates from the Conference of Presidents dined with Israeli dignitaries, as well as ambassadors from countries as diverse as Austria, Egypt and Cameroon.

Political discussions at the tables were intense, and Conference of Presidents Chairman Seymour Reich quipped that he heard at least four Middle East peace plans proposed in the course of the evening.

The diplomatic dinner was the only Jerusalem event on the Conference of Presidents itinerary that was held outside the Hyatt Hotel, which straddles West and East Jerusalem.

Nearly all foreign ambassadors in Israel, including Brown, refuse to attend official functions at the Hyatt because of its location, said Hyatt's general manager, Norman Rafelson.

#### **DENYING HIS POSITION HAS SOFTENED, SHAMIR TRIES TO KEEP LIKUD IN LINE**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was struggling Tuesday to keep the Likud faithful in line, while fending off ultimatums from his Labor coalition partners and a stern notice from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that he expects decisions from Israel "very quickly."

Shamir's problems with Likud stem from rumors Monday that he was softening under constant prodding from Washington and the Labor Party to accept Baker's compromise formula for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Baker wants Israel to drop its opposition to the inclusion of East Jerusalem residents or deportees from the administered territories in the Palestinian delegation.

He told Foreign Minister Moshe Arens last week that unless there is a quick response from Israel, he will turn his attention away from the Middle East.

The Labor Party set a two-week deadline for the policy-making Inner Cabinet to decide in favor of the Baker plan or face dissolution of the unity government.

The political crisis sharpened when 23 members of the Likud Knesset faction petitioned Shamir for an immediate closed-door meeting in advance of any decisions on the peace process.

Some were angered when informed that the prime minister could not fit such a meeting into his schedule this week.

Ariel Sharon, who resigned from the Cabinet on Jan. 19, is now demanding another meeting of

the 2,600-member Likud Central Committee, which he chairs, before the Cabinet makes any decision.

According to the Likud constitution, such meetings must be convened jointly by the chairman (Sharon) and the party leader (Shamir).

The last Central Committee meeting, which took place Feb. 12 in Tel Aviv, was called to debate the prime minister's peace policies. It ended inconclusively and in bedlam.

#### Levy Rejects Meeting With Shamir

Shamir met privately Tuesday with Likud Knesset members Benny Begin and David Magen, hard-liners who have supported his diplomacy until now. He assured them that no major concessions are in the offing, a signal the Shamir camp was busy sending to other Likud members.

Magen, whom Shamir plans to appoint to the Cabinet, and Begin, son of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, represent Likud's young guard.

Even greater influence is wielded by Deputy Premier David Levy, an outspoken opponent of Shamir's peace policies and one of his rivals for leadership of the party.

Levy flatly rejected an invitation from Shamir to meet privately to discuss the diplomatic situation and Likud's serious internal problems.

Levy's supporters said a meeting would be pointless, because the prime minister has "created faits accomplis" with regard both to the diplomatic process and the party.

Levy is known to be furious with Shamir for passing over his close ally, Knesset member Eliahu Ben-Elissar, when he reshuffled the Cabinet last week after Sharon resigned.

Another internal problem was created by the defection of five members of Likud's Liberal Party faction, led by Economics and Planning Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, another fierce critic of Shamir's peace diplomacy.

They have asked the Knesset House Committee to register as a new faction, tentatively named Party for the Promotion of Liberal Values.

Laborites have seized upon the defection to demand rotation of the office of prime minister, inasmuch as Likud is no longer the largest single party in the Knesset.

Likud is scornful of the idea, claiming the defectors would win no more than half a Knesset seat if they ran for election on a separate ticket.

#### **EGYPT THINKS BUS ATTACKERS ARE IN SYRIA**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- Egypt believes the terrorists who attacked an Israeli tour bus near Ismailia on Feb. 4 found haven in Syria. Cairo is demanding their extradition.

The Damascus government is believed to be protecting the perpetrators. As a result, the prospects of an Egyptian-Syrian reconciliation have been set back, according to Smadar Peri, Arab affairs correspondent of Yediot Achronot.

There had been talk of a summit meeting between President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Syrian President Hafez Assad. Now such a summit is no longer mentioned in Egypt, Peri reported.

She quoted an Israeli diplomat in Cairo as saying that "in the aftermath of the attack, Israel is receiving updates" on the Egyptian investigation, but so far the Egyptian government has not published its findings.

The machine-gun and grenade attack on the bus from a passing car killed nine Israelis and two Egyptians, and left 18 Israelis wounded.

## **PLO OFFICIAL SEES PALESTINIAN STATE LEADING TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL**

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- A senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organization believes the emergence of a Palestinian state will lead to the disintegration of Israel.

The PLO has, therefore, opted for moderation to achieve its own state, Dr. Assad Abdel Rahman, a member of the PLO Executive Council, wrote last week in Shu'un Palestiniya, a PLO monthly published in Beirut.

According to Rahman, the events since the Palestine National Council agreed to accept Israel's existence at its November 1988 meeting in Algiers do not signify a change of the PLO's goal of a state, but only of the means to reach it.

"This Palestinian state which is established on part of the homeland will be established on all of the homeland," he wrote.

According to Rahman, "the Arab-Palestinian political change of direction," is "derived from the Arab belief that peace" will lead to creation of "a sovereign Palestinian state."

That state will be able, "if even gradually, to cause the disintegration of the Zionist-Jewish framework of the State of Israel," Rahman wrote.

A Palestinian state will "ensure the destruction of the political framework of the Zionist enterprise" and make Israelis adjust "to a stronger, wider developing oriental Arab society," he added.

## **VIOLENCE EXPLODES IN GAZA WITH DOZENS REPORTED INJURED**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- Escalating violence in the Gaza Strip exploded this week into one of the worst clashes since the intifada began.

Masses of rioting Palestinian youths confronted security forces at refugee camps in Rafah, the southernmost town in the Gaza Strip. The Israel Defense Force reported at least 29 people wounded. Arab sources put the wounded at 71.

Eyewitnesses said the encounter was more violent than any since the early stages of the intifada two years ago. The IDF fired tear gas from helicopters to quell the rioting.

The eruption came in reaction to the deaths of two local youths in a single week. The second to die was Jamal al-Amas, 20, an intifada activist who died time at the Ketzioth detention camp in the Negev.

Amas was wounded in a clash with the IDF and later succumbed. As news of his death circulated, hundreds of Palestinians gathered outside his home in violation of a curfew.

Soldiers were sent to disperse them and the rioting began.

## **IDF WILL NO LONGER SEND RECRUITS IN BASIC TRAINING TO TERRITORIES**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- Israel Defense Force recruits have been assigned police duty in the West Bank and Gaza Strip before completing their three to four months of basic training, a high-ranking IDF officer disclosed Sunday.

Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnai, head of the IDF Southern Command, said that recruits had been sent into the territories for weekly stints.

But it was found that this cut into their basic training. As a result, the practice will end in April, he told students in Ramat Hasharon.

Vilnai also discussed the high suicide rate among soldiers, in response to questions from the students. He said the IDF is considering whether to compel doctors and parents to report a recruit's psychological problems to the military medical authorities.

He said that when he headed the IDF's manpower branch, he had found that 99 percent of the soldiers who committed suicide had psychological problems before they entered the service.

But parents are reluctant to reveal such problems, and medical ethics forbid doctors from making such information available, the general said. Therefore, he favors compulsory reporting.

Vilnai denied the IDF suicide rate was at an all-time high. He said there were years when the suicide rate was higher than now, but the media did not report it.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP ASSAILS 'ARBITRARY' TAXATION POLICY**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- An Israeli human rights group has accused the authorities of using an arbitrary, irrational tax system to enforce their rule over Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The report, published this week by Betselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, followed on the heels of the U.S. State Department's report on human rights around the world.

That report, released in Washington on Feb. 21, bore down on Israel for the behavior of its security forces in confrontations with the local population.

Betselem's report focused on the tax system it said was imposed without much consideration and without the option of appeal.

It pointed to a military regulation that withholds as many as 23 public services from West Bank residents until their taxes are paid.

Because most of the residents either refused to pay taxes in the past or did not keep account books, officials often set their tax levels arbitrarily, without relevance to the actual income of the taxpayer, the report said. The bargaining that follows "casts doubt on the credibility of the original assessment."

Often an assessee has no job or works for an employer off the Israeli tax books. "Those assesses, which comprise a large part of the residents of the territories, stand helpless in the face of the assessment process," the Betselem report said.

"They have never kept books, never filed reports, and the majority of them have never paid taxes. Usually, no negotiation takes place between the assessee and the official. The assessment is simply set.

"Those assesses usually do not appeal or bargain, and they are faced with the consequences -- confiscation of documents and property or detention."

A military spokesman, responding to the report, said it was not objective. He said the purpose of taxing residents of the territories is to provide them with "high-level services."

Those who have grievances against the authorities have ample means to appeal them, the spokesman said.

## GERMAN JEWS, EYEING UNIFICATION, INSIST GERMANS REMEMBER THE SHOAH

By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- With the two Germans rushing toward unification, Jews here are determined to remind them not to forget the events of a not-too-distant past, which resulted in a divided Germany.

But they are probably striving in vain, according to Marcel Reich-Ranicki, a prominent West German literary critic who thinks the Jewish community is too small to exert much influence.

Reich-Ranicki, who is Jewish but is not officially registered as such, observed that with Germany becoming larger and stronger, the percentage of Jews in the general population will shrink further.

But Heinz Galinski, chairman of the West German Jewish community, won't let that bother him. Speaking in Berlin on Monday, he warned against forgetfulness.

Galinski called attention to an historic coincidence: the night of Nov. 9, 1989, when Berliners rejoiced over the opening of the Berlin Wall, was the 51st anniversary of Kristallnacht, the first organized pogrom of Germany's Jews, the prelude to the Holocaust.

At a time when the political and geographical changes wrought by the war are being shaken, the Germans have a duty to remember what led to the collapse of their former state, Galinski said.

While the Germans as a nation may not forget what Nov. 9 stands for in Jewish eyes, they are so overwhelmed by their new problems and tasks that they pay little attention to other peoples' concerns.

Germany nowadays is just too preoccupied with itself, and will be for years to come, a Berlin scholar said.

## ISRAEL WINS OBSERVER STATUS AT U.N. CHEMICAL ARMS TALKS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- Israel has been given observer status at the U.N. disarmament conference, over the objections of Algeria, Iran and other Moslem countries.

Israel had been excluded from the 40-state conference since it was established by the U.N. General Assembly in 1970.

Now it will be able to participate in deliberations for a chemical weapons treaty, though it cannot vote.

This is of utmost importance to Israel, Avraham Milo, deputy chief of the Israeli U.N. mission in Geneva, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

He explained that Israel's vital interest stemmed from the fact that it is in a region where chemical weapons are common. Iran, Iraq, Syria and Libya have either used or produced them.

Israel would like a universal chemical weapons convention signed by all nations. Meanwhile, it has advocated regional pacts. Israel has proposed a chemical weapons-free zone in the Middle East.

Israel was one of 30 countries given observer status at the disarmament conference this year. Their acceptance by consensus precluded a veto by the Moslem states.

## JEWISH EXHIBIT OPENS IN FERRARA

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- An exhibition on 2,000 years of Jewish life and art in Italy will open at the Palazzo dei Diamanti in Ferrara on March 18, following its highly successful presentation at the Jewish Museum in New York last fall.

The exhibition features archaeological treasures, priceless ritual objects, tiles, manuscripts, paintings, drawings, sculpture and photographs.

All bear witness to the two millennia of Jewish habitation of the Italian peninsula, the longest continuous Jewish presence in the Diaspora.

The displays come from public and private collections in Italy, France, the United States, Britain and Israel.

The exhibition in Ferrara will contain a section not included in New York, which pays tribute to Jewish participation in the anti-fascist movement before World War II and in the resistance during the war.

The display will also have a new name. In New York, the exhibition was titled "Gardens and Ghettos."

In Ferrara, where it will be on display for three months, it will be called "It Tal Ya," a play on the words "Italia" and Hebrew for "island of divine dew," from Genesis.

## MUSIC FROM THERESIENSTADT AT FESTIVAL

By Eli Kohen

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- Jewish music from the Theresienstadt concentration camp will be part of a Jewish music festival to be held here March 9 to 11, under the auspices of the Jewish community and the Copenhagen Cultural Foundation.

One of the array of international performers, 76-year-old pianist Edith Kraus, is a Theresienstadt survivor.

The event, symbolized by the image of "Fiddler on the Roof," will also feature the Glikken orchestra from Lund, Sweden; Kinor, a young Jewish ensemble from Riga, Latvia; and Israeli musicologist David Bloch and his Danish-American wife, Emily Berensen.

There will also be guests from Norway.

The festival was organized by the Organization for Israeli Culture and Youth, and by Abraham Koppenhagen, a Polish-born Israeli living in Copenhagen.

## EL AL LOWERS ITSELF FOR ASHMATIC FLIER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (JTA) -- A Paris-bound El Al jet reduced its altitude by 12,000 feet to ease the discomfort of an asthmatic passenger who left his medicine at home.

The passenger, Claude Lenics, was already airborne when his wife telephoned El Al to say he had forgotten his medications and his life could be endangered on the flight.

The message was passed on to the pilot, who checked his medical kit for an inhaler and then requested permission to lower altitude.

The plane descended from its normal cruising altitude of 43,000 feet to 31,000 feet and changed its flight path, at a considerable cost to El Al in extra fuel.