

VOL. 68 - 73rd YEAR
THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1990
NO. 110
U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL SEND ENVOY TO TERRITORIES AT ISRAEL'S INVITATION
By Allison Kaplan

UNITED NATIONS, June 13 (JTA) -- Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will send an envoy to the Middle East "as soon as possible," to report on the situation in Israel's administered territories, it was announced here Wednesday.

The U.N. emissary will be making the trip at the invitation of the Israeli government, though it appears that plans were made for the trip before the Israeli invitation was issued.

Perez de Cuellar told reporters Wednesday that "an interesting coincidence" had occurred the day before, when he invited Israeli Ambassador Johanan Bein to see him to discuss the mission.

"When I was about to suggest my sending a mission to the area, at the same time Mr. Bein had instructions from his government to invite me to send a mission," the secretary-general said.

The emissary will be Jean-Claude Aime of Haiti, who is a senior official in the secretary-general's office with expertise in the Middle East. U.N. officials said that in addition to visiting Israel and the territories, he will travel to other countries in the region to discuss the peace process.

The decision by the new Israeli government to welcome the delegation is seen as meeting two objectives.

First, it is an attempt to stem Arab efforts to convene a special General Assembly session whose purpose would be to dispatch an international force to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Second, it will likely please the U.S. State Department, which has said it supports sending an emissary from the secretary-general's office to review the situation in the territories.

A 'Gesture To Our Real Friends'

"We decided, as a gesture to our real friends, who are trying to calm the rhetoric in the U.N., to accept somebody who will travel to Israel in the framework of a tour of the area," Elyakim Rubinstein, Israel's Cabinet secretary, explained during a news conference Wednesday in New York.

Rubinstein, who is a senior adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, made the remark at a news conference during the 77th annual national commission meeting of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Ambassador Bein told Israeli army radio Wednesday that the invitation was extended by the new Likud-led regime, because it is a "government of initiatives" and a "government of peace."

But the Palestine Liberation Organization's representative at the United Nations, Zehdi Terzi, told reporters that the Israeli invitation was a "cheap, under-the-belly blow, because they knew very well that the secretary-general will be sending a mission."

He accused the Israelis of making it "appear that it is their own initiative in order to undercut the secretary-general and put him in a different framework and a different parameter of action."

ISRAEL NOT 'SERIOUS ABOUT PEACE,' SECRETARY OF STATE TELLS CONGRESS
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 13 (JTA) -- Secretary of State James Baker denounced officials in Israel's new Likud-led government Wednesday for implying that Israel will not talk to the Palestinians unless they accede to Israeli positions in advance.

"If that's going to be the approach and that's going to be the attitude, there's won't be any dialogue and there won't be any peace," Baker told the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

He then recited the telephone number for the White House switchboard and told Israel, "When you're serious about peace, call us."

The secretary's ire apparently was raised by remarks Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir made in an interview with the Jerusalem Post, published Wednesday.

The Likud leader was quoted as saying there is "nothing to discuss with those among the Palestinian Arab circles who are opposed to autonomy."

He also was quoted as saying, "I want to make clear that a dialogue between Israel and Arab representatives of Judea, Samaria and Gaza cannot succeed without prior agreement to advance within the framework of Camp David, that is, autonomy."

"Autonomy" refers to an arrangement under which Palestinians would be able to exercise a degree of self-rule over all matters except security and foreign affairs. The proposal falls far short of Palestinian aspirations for independence.

The Israeli government's position until now has been that it would enter negotiations with an elected Palestinian delegation without preconditions, and that both sides would be free to bring whatever proposals they like to the bargaining table.

Israel's ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arad, assured a largely Jewish audience here Monday night that there would be no change in the government's peace policy.

Baker Expresses Frustration

Speaking at the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee only hours after the Knesset had approved Shamir's coalition, Arad said the new government is committed "to pursuing the peace process on the basis of the Camp David accords and of the previous national unity government's diplomatic initiative, in all of its aspects."

The ambassador said Israel wants to encourage Palestinians to enter negotiations with Israel "from which they would emerge with perhaps less than they dream of -- but far more than they have now in the way of autonomy."

Baker's remarks, his most outspoken criticism of Israel to date, were made Wednesday after Rep. Mel Levine (D-Calif.) tried to pin the blame on the Bush administration for Israel's refusal to accept Baker's own proposal for Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

Levine claimed there would likely have been such talks had President Bush not made "intemperate remarks" expressing concern about Jewish "settlements" in East Jerusalem.

But the secretary of state intimated that the United States had bent over backward to accommodate Israeli concerns, and he suggested that Israel was dragging its feet to avoid peace talks.

Baker said that before the Israeli government collapsed in March, the United States and Israel were "close" to resolving various obstacles to convening the talks in Cairo.

They had discussed meeting Shamir's opposition to having residents of East Jerusalem represented in the Palestinian delegation by including only those Palestinians with "dual addresses" in East Jerusalem and the territories, Baker said.

They had also discussed the inclusion of specific Palestinians that Israel had deported, he added. "That's how close we got."

Baker said the Palestinians were "prepared to talk to Israel," and "it's hard for us to understand why we did not get a 'yes' answer" from the then-unity government to start the talks.

The peace process is "perhaps more important to Israel than to anybody," he said.

PLO Dialogue 'In Jeopardy'

Baker's comments to the House panel appeared to be the latest indication of his personal frustration at not being able to advance the peace process beyond the point it was at when the Israeli government collapsed.

For months, the United States has been unable to resume the discussions while waiting for a new Israeli government to emerge. With the formation of the new Likud-led government Sunday, the administration has been hoping to resume that process.

But Rep. Levine, a longtime supporter of Israel, cautioned the secretary Wednesday that public pressure on the Shamir regime would not accelerate the process and, in fact, "undermines" progress the United States has made privately.

Shamir wants to improve his "personal relationship" with President Bush, Levine claimed, observing that the Bush-Shamir relationship is "obviously not the closest."

Some analysts speculated Wednesday that Baker's tough rhetoric could be aimed at balancing an imminent decision to cut off the U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Baker told the House panel Wednesday that, while the United States had not made a decision, "the future of the dialogue is in great jeopardy."

But the administration appeared to be holding out hope that the PLO would still meet U.S. demands to denounce the May 30 attempted raid on Tel Aviv by a PLO constituent group, the Palestine Liberation Front.

"I want to see that terroristic act condemned and those who did it condemned," President Bush declared Tuesday.

A well-placed State Department source said Wednesday that Baker's remarks were not part of a balancing act, and that the secretary was "genuinely frustrated" with the slow pace of the peace process.

The source also strongly denied news reports Wednesday that the United States had offered to upgrade its dialogue with the PLO if it condemned the May 30 raid and expelled Mohammed (Abul) Abbas, the head of the Palestine Liberation Front, from the PLO executive committee.

In New York, Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said it had received assurances from the "highest levels" of the administration that no such deal was offered.

NEW DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS JEWISH SETTLERS IN WEST BANK By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 13 (JTA) -- One of the first acts of Moshe Arens after taking office as defense minister this week was to assure Jewish settlers in the West Bank that their safety "is our first priority."

Arens, who was defense minister in 1982, visited the West Bank town of Ariel on Wednesday and the village of Ma'alch Adumim on the Jerusalem-Jericho road.

He got warm welcomes, and it was duly noted that it was "no coincidence" that the West Bank was the choice of his first visit after being sworn in.

The settlers there have complained bitterly that the security forces fail to provide adequate protection against Palestinians who regularly throw stones and gasoline bombs at their cars.

But Arens stressed that while "the safety of the Jewish inhabitants of the region is our first priority," he had no immediate solutions to offer.

"First, we want to study the situation and get the advice of the people directly involved and to hear the concerns of the people who live in the area, and then we will see what is to be done," the defense minister said.

Arens also made the point that there was another "priority of moving forward to peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs in the area."

OVER 150 ARAB YOUTHS DETAINED IN STABBING OF YESHIVA STUDENT By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 13 (JTA) -- Jerusalem police were still searching Wednesday for the lone assailant who knifed an 18-year-old yeshiva student Tuesday just outside the Damascus Gate.

The assailant escaped before police closed off the Old City. More than 150 Arab youths were detained Tuesday for questioning in connection with the attack. Police said 11 Arab youths were still in custody Wednesday, but no arrests were announced.

The stabbing victim, Yosef Edri, was reported in good condition following treatment for light to moderate stomach wounds.

In another incident, Jerusalem police said they are holding five Arab suspects in connection with the desecration of the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives last weekend.

Four of them are squatters who reportedly slept in caves on the mount. The fifth is the cemetery guard who reported the vandalism Sunday. He was detained following his report.

Some 62 gravestones in the cemetery's Kollel Polin section were pulverized with what seem to have been heavy hammers.

Intifada-related violence continued, meanwhile, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israel Defense Force meted out swift punishment to a reserve lieutenant whose troops hurled a tear gas grenade into the courtyard of a maternity clinic in Gaza on Tuesday. More than 60 children, most of them infants or under 3 years old, were treated for tear gas inhalation.

The IDF announced that the officer, not identified, was sentenced Tuesday night to 10 days in jail.

IDF sources said the unit under his command had come under a barrage of stones, but nevertheless tear gas was not the proper response.

GREEK LEADER HOLDS 'LOVEFEST' WITH AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, June 13 (JTA) -- Constantine Mitsotakis, the new prime minister of Greece, and American Jewish leaders pledged their mutual support here Tuesday in a meeting that could accurately be described as a "lovefest."

But "it was a 'lovefest' we've waited eight years to hold," exulted Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who enthusiastically embraced the 71-year-old Mitsotakis before Greek television cameras.

Since 1981, relations between Greece and the Jewish world had been strained over the often anti-Israel and anti-U.S. policies of former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.

Papandreou's Socialist regime angered Jews not only by withholding full diplomatic ties with Israel, but by its friendly relationship with Libya and by giving what appeared to be sympathetic treatment to terrorists.

In sharp contrast, Mitsotakis, who heads the center-right New Democracy Party, established full diplomatic relations with Israel on May 21, less than two months after taking office.

In upgrading ties with the Jewish state, "I did what I believe serves the interests of our country and serves the interest of peace in the region," Mitsotakis said at a reception hosted by ADL.

Mitsotakis has pledged to tighten up security at Athens airport and is forming a special anti-terrorist unit.

During meetings with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the World Jewish Congress, Mitsotakis also promised not to release Mohammed Rashid, a Palestinian charged with a 1982 airline bombing.

"We will not free him. We will either try him or extradite him to the United States," Mitsotakis told the Conference of Presidents.

Jewish Tourism Boycott Lifted

Mitsotakis said he hoped American Jews would come as tourists to his country, as well as participate in economic development there.

His wish received a response at the Conference of Presidents meeting, when Robert Lifton, president of the American Jewish Congress, the largest sponsor of Jewish travel, said his group would resume travel programs to Greece.

Most travel to Greece under Jewish auspices ceased in 1985, after the Papandreou government freed six Palestinians accused of terrorism.

Until last month, Greece had been the only member of the European Community without full ties with the Jewish state. During his years in the opposition, Mitsotakis had said repeatedly that he would upgrade relations with Israel when he came to power.

When he made the move last month, however, he simultaneously upgraded the status of the Palestine Liberation Organization and issued a condemnation of Israel's continued presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mitsotakis did not elaborate on Greece's future policies regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict or its stand on a repeal of the 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism, saying that Greece would coordinate its stand with that of the European Community as a whole.

"We Greeks are friends of both the Israeli and the Arab peoples," he told the ADL group.

CZECH RABBI'S FUTURE IN DOUBT AFTER HE ADMITS ROLE AS INFORMER

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, June 13 (JTA) -- The leadership of Czechoslovakia's Jewish community will meet next Tuesday to decide whether to demand the resignation of its rabbi, 33-year-old Daniel Mayer, who has admitted to having been an informant for the ousted Communist regime.

Dr. Desider Galsky, leader of the tiny Jewish community, which numbers fewer than 1,000 in Prague, said in a telephone interview that Mayer would make a statement at the meeting and members of the community board would vote on his future.

Mayer was quoted as telling an American newspaper in an interview Monday that he will offer his resignation.

He admitted collaborating with the Communist secret police after his name appeared on a list of informants culled from among the candidates of various parties in Czechoslovakia's first free elections in 44 years, held last weekend.

Mayer stood for election for a minor party that received few votes.

According to the New York newspaper Newsday, he said he withdrew his candidacy in April for reasons unrelated to his spy role, but his name appeared on the ballot by mistake.

Galsky agreed his decision to stand for election was "a mistake" and "it is very sad."

According to the Newsday interview, published Tuesday, Mayer was recruited in 1979 when he was a second-year student at the rabbinical seminary in Budapest, Hungary, then the only rabbinical school in Eastern Europe.

He said he signed an agreement to report regularly on the activities of the Jewish community. He said he was under "great pressure" and threats.

Mayer said the secret police had a hold on him because he had carelessly expressed opinions critical of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in the spring of 1968 and other views contrary to the party line.

Mayer said he believed most of the lay Jewish community in Czechoslovakia was similarly compromised. He told Newsday he had evidence he was not the only informant in the community.

RISHON LE-ZION KILLER TRIED SUICIDE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 13 (JTA) -- Ami Popper, the man being held for killing seven Palestinian laborers last month, has made two suicide attempts in his prison cell during the past week, his attorney, David Ofek, told the Rehovot Magistrates Court on Wednesday.

Ofek is petitioning to have Popper transferred from prison to a mental health facility.

The 21-year-old former Israel Defense Force soldier was arrested after the indiscriminate shooting on May 20 at a hiring site near Rishon le-Zion, which left seven Arab day laborers dead and 10 wounded.

Popper confessed to the crime, which triggered a week of rioting in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where the victims lived.

Popper was ordered held in custody pending a psychiatric evaluation.

His lawyer said he learned from prison warders that Popper tried twice to hang himself with bedsheets. Each time was saved by guards.

WHITE SUPREMACIST CANDIDATE DEFEATED IN ARKANSAS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR RACE

By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, June 13 (JTA) -- A Ku Klux Klan supporter and former leader of the American Nazi Party was defeated by a black real estate agent Tuesday, in a landslide vote in the Arkansas Republican runoff election for lieutenant governor.

The white supremacist candidate, Ralph Forbes, had received a 46 percent plurality in the first round of voting last month, just short of the majority needed to clinch the primary.

But on Tuesday, he received a mere 4,431 votes, only 14 percent of the total, giving his opponent, Kenneth (Muskie) Harris, a sweeping victory. Harris will face Democratic candidate Jim Tucker, a former Democratic congressman from Little Rock, in the November general election.

"The voters of Arkansas have spoken," said Leslie Goodman, spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee. "They have rejected the politics of hate and bigotry. This is a victory of principle."

The election has focused the eyes of the nation on a state known for its right-wing extremist politics. "The state has rallied in a major way against Forbes," said Suzanne Pharr, director of the Little Rock-based Women's Project, which tracks hate groups in Arkansas. "It doesn't want to be seen as a racist state."

Pharr feels that the election has served as a barometer "to measure the number of real right-wingers in the state. These groups are substantial, but we just didn't know their numbers," she said.

Arkansas is the home of the Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord, an anti-Semitic and racist extremist group under investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as the home-base of Thom Robb and the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

A 'Hard-Core Neo-Nazi'

The 30,000-member Christian Identity movement is also deeply rooted in the state. Its religious theology teaches that white Christians are the true descendants of the lost tribes of Israel, Jews are the satanic offspring of Eve and black people are "pre-Adamic," or "subhuman."

Forbes, who calls himself a minister but does not have his own church, is executive director of the Sword of Christ Good News Ministries, which is affiliated with the Christian Identity movement.

It and the Sword of Truth Book Club, which he also operated, are longtime purveyors of anti-Semitic materials, according to a report issued by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Forbes, who formerly served as a captain in George Rockwell's American Nazi Party, asserts that "racial separation is ultimately the right answer" and advocates sending American blacks to a black homeland in Africa. He has said that Jews "brought Africans here as slaves in chains, and have been exploiting them ever since."

He made his hatred of Jews clear in a 1980 Christmas message, in which he said: "The anti-Christians have started two world wars and the multi-headed Jew Beast is even now setting the stage for the final bloody conflict of Armageddon."

Forbes managed the 1988 presidential campaign of another white supremacist, Louisiana state Rep. David Duke, and orchestrated the World Peace Day Crusade in 1981, which sought to release Nazi leader Rudolf Hess from prison.

"He's a hard-core neo-Nazi, and there's no doubt about it," said Daniel Levitas, director of the Center for Democratic Renewal, an Atlanta-based organization that tracks white supremacists.

"He's not like David Duke or Thom Robb, but he's definitely in the second rank of leadership of the neo-Nazi party in the U.S."

Forbes has become increasingly active in Arkansas politics in recent years. He ran unsuccessfully in 1986 for the lieutenant governorship and in 1988 tried to run as a write-in candidate against Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.).

"There's no way by now that any one in this state could not know who Forbes is or what his affiliations are," said Pharr of the Women's Project. "He puts out a lot of hate literature here. He whips up the literature and makes a new group, whatever the issue is."

VANCOUVER JEWS WELCOME PLAN TO DROP CHRISTIAN CLAUSE FROM PARTY CHARTER

By Gary Pogrow

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, June 13 (JTA) -- The Jewish community has welcomed a proposal to drop a clause advancing Christianity from the constitution of British Columbia's Social Credit Party.

The change, recommended by a special committee of the party, would eliminate the "Christian Principles" statement which created an uproar at last year's convention.

A Jewish member stormed out of that meeting and resigned from the party.

The statement says it is a principle and objective of the party "to foster and encourage the universally recognized principles of Christianity in human relationships."

That would be replaced by a statement based on the Canadian Constitution which simply recognizes "the supremacy of God and the rule of law."

In addition, an amendment to the new clause would commit the party to "foster historical, social and moral ethical principles, regardless of gender, ethnic origin or religious affiliation."

Rabbi Wilfred Solomon of Congregation Beth Israel, Vancouver's largest synagogue, said he was pleased about the proposed change as long as it is not construed as a test of membership in the Social Credit Party.

"It's a tremendous step forward," Solomon said, "but I think it's regrettable, because it still betrays the need to defend God with a political platform."

But Grace McCarthy, a prominent Social Credit Party member, believes the new statement is very good and hopes it will be adopted and ratified at the next convention.

"We are a political party, not a religious organization," McCarthy said.

Opposition New Democratic Party leader Michael Harcourt was cautious.

"I think it's about time they caught up with the 20th century. Any political party in a pluralistic democracy like ours, with such a diversity of religious and multicultural communities, that doesn't respect and isn't sensitive to that mosaic doesn't understand our democracy," according to Harcourt.

"It's fine to change the constitution, which they should have done 50 years ago," he added, "but it still doesn't change their disturbing actions and attitudes toward our minority communities."