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**SOVIETS WON'T BE SENT TO TERRITORIES,
SHARON ASSURES JEWISH AGENCY LEADERS**
By Charles Hoffman

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA) -- Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, known for his hawkish views on the administered territories, assured leaders of the Jewish Agency for Israel on Sunday that the government will not settle Soviet immigrants in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Sharon said that housing for the new immigrants will be built in the Galilee, Negev and Wadi Ara areas, in addition to the center of the country. Wadi Ara is a heavily Arab area within Israel's pre-1967 borders that links the coastal plain with the Jezreel Valley.

Sharon spoke at a session of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, which convened prior to the opening of the agency's annual assembly.

Close to 400 delegates -- representing Zionist organizations, Diaspora communities and fund-raising bodies -- are meeting here this week to discuss the challenges of the mass exodus from the Soviet Union and the needs of Jewish cultural life for those who remain.

The assembly also will take up a proposal to create a Jewish Education Authority to oversee Diaspora education programs now run by the World Zionist Organization.

A major controversy has emerged over whether this authority should contain a department that explicitly serves the Reform, Conservative and other non-Orthodox movements in the Diaspora.

The Reform and Conservative delegates are determined to include such a unit in the authority, but the Orthodox have threatened to reject the proposal if the label "religious" is attached to the non-Orthodox department.

Arabs Should 'Welcome' Immigration

Sharon was named by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to head a special ministerial committee on immigration and absorption. He said that he would include two Jewish Agency leaders on this panel. The agency is a non-governmental body that shares responsibility for absorption of new immigrants with various ministries.

Sharon said his ministry has started to refurbish 5,000 public housing apartments and has ordered 3,000 prefabricated homes, the first of 40,000 such structures that will be needed in the future.

At the gala opening of the assembly Sunday night, Simcha Diniz, who chairs the Jewish Agency Executive, said that "1 million additional Jews will give Israel the sense of security and strength that it needs to negotiate magnanimously with the Arabs" on a peace agreement.

"If the Arabs indeed want peace, then they should welcome this immigration," he said. "But if there are Arabs who want to throw Israel into the sea, then they should know that it will be harder to do this with 1 million additional citizens."

The social tensions in Israel welling up lately over the privileges given to newcomers burst out at the opening of the assembly, as dozens of residents of deprived neighborhoods demonstrated outside the gathering. Diniz's

speech was briefly interrupted by one of the protestors.

Among those attending the Jewish Agency Assembly for the first time is Mikhail Chlenov, head of the Va'ad, the federation of Jewish organizations in the Soviet Union. He was warmly welcomed by Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors.

President Chaim Herzog, who also spoke to the delegates, said, "Let me assure you, because so many of you have been appealing to me, that, as I have done in the past, so I will continue to do everything I possibly can to support the move to change our system of government and our electoral system, which is totally inadequate for a modern society."

Kaplan responded, "We are behind you in your efforts for electoral reform."

**SHAMIR EXPECTED TO REJECT ESSENCE
OF BAKER PLAN IN A REPLY TO BUSH**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is expected to reject the substance of U.S. proposals for an Israeli-Palestinian peace dialogue, in a letter to President Bush currently being drafted by his aides.

The letter will be in response to a request Shamir received earlier this month from Bush that the Israeli prime minister spell out his views on how the peace process should proceed.

Government circles predicted over the weekend that while Shamir would not explicitly rule out Secretary of State James Baker's formula for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, the implication of the Israeli reply will, in fact, be a negation of Baker's proposal.

Baker's plan calls for talks in Cairo between Israelis and a Palestinian delegation that would include Palestinians deported from the territories and those with addresses in East Jerusalem.

The Cairo dialogue was intended to work out modalities for elections in the administered territories, proposed by Shamir in his May 1989 peace initiative. The elected representatives would negotiate with Israel on Palestinian self-rule and eventually the final status of the territories.

Shamir's aides are known to be working on the letter in close contact with Foreign Minister David Levy, who remained hospitalized in Afula after suffering a heart attack last week.

The reply was not discussed at Sunday's Cabinet meeting, but informed sources said it would be sent within days.

The sources said Shamir would congratulate Bush on his decision to suspend the U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Israeli letter would also focus on a possible dialogue with "indigenous" Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, instead of the proposed Cairo dialogue, which is anathema to some of Shamir's coalition partners.

The sources said Shamir's letter to Bush would affirm his ongoing commitment to his original peace plan of May 1989. But it would stress that the plan contains other, largely ignored elements besides the Palestinian elections, including an end of the general state of war between Israel and the Arab states.

**NAVY INTERCEPTS TERRORIST BOAT
AFTER HIGH-SPEED CHASE OFF COAST**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 24 (JTA) -- An Israeli navy patrol boat sank an armed terrorist craft after a high-speed chase off the Lebanon coast Saturday night, a military spokesman announced.

At least two terrorists were killed when the Israeli Devora-class patrol boat exchanged fire with the terrorists, who launched rocket-propelled grenades. There were no Israeli casualties.

The terrorist speedboat was intercepted about six miles off the coast of southern Lebanon. It was traveling toward Israel at a speed of some 30 knots (about 34.5 mph).

The boat apparently was on a mission to attack Israeli targets. But it could not immediately be determined which terrorist organization sent the raiders.

Israeli air and ground forces were alerted and directed toward the region involved.

The Devora patrol boats are replacing the older Dabour-class, which recently proved too slow for the fast motorboats employed by terrorist groups.

The Dabour boats were unable to catch two terrorist speedboats sent to attack the beaches near Tel Aviv on May 30 by Mohammad (Abul) Abbas' Palestine Liberation Front. Twelve terrorists were captured and four were killed on the beaches in that attempt. No Israelis were hurt.

**E.C. COMMISSION WILL MONITOR
CONDITIONS IN THE TERRITORIES**

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, June 24 (JTA) -- In a new move that might further strain relations between Europe and Israel, the European Community has decided to set up an ad hoc commission that will report regularly on conditions in the administered territories.

The decision, which will be put into effect this fall, was made last week at a meeting in Luxembourg, where the 12 foreign ministers of the E.C. had gathered for their regular session.

The move followed a tough resolution passed June 14 in Strasbourg, France, at a meeting of the E.C. Executive Commission, which condemned Israel for "its bloody repression of Palestinian civilians and its repeated violations of human rights in the occupied territories."

At that meeting, Abel Matutes, E.C. commissioner for Mediterranean affairs, warned Israel that failure to find a peaceful solution to the turmoil in the territories could result in economic sanctions against it.

At last week's meeting in Luxembourg, no European minister made any objection to the decision to establish E.C. representation in the territories, Matutes said. He explained that such a representation would be aimed at monitoring and improving the administration of E.C. aid to the Palestinians in the territories.

The E.C. is providing economic aid there in the areas of health and education. That aid is to be doubled from \$7 million this year to \$14 million within the next three years.

The E.C. representation in the territories will not have the diplomatic status that such commissions enjoy in several nations.

The E.C. is represented in Israel by a delegation in Tel Aviv, whose chief, Gwyn Morgan, has the rank of ambassador.

**SETTLERS ALLOWED TO FORM CIVIL GUARD
IN EFFORT TO COMBAT INTIFADA VIOLENCE**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Moshe Arens, in a departure from past policy, has given Jewish settlers in the West Bank permission to establish a civil guard.

Jerusalem police, meanwhile, lifted a curfew clamped on three Arab neighborhoods of the capital Friday, following riots in which two Arab youths were fatally shot by border police.

The police lifted the curfew Sunday under pressure from Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek.

But Police Inspector-General Ya'acov Turner warned that if rioting persisted, "there will be more fatalities. There is a limit to the restraint of policemen who are being attacked with iron bars, chains and axes," he said.

Arens' authorization for settlers to organize into militia-like armed units was clearly intended to appease them, as violence continued in the territories and spread to Israel proper.

Four people were injured Saturday when an explosive charge detonated in a plastic garbage can on the beach at Ein Gedi on the Dead Sea.

A gasoline bomb was thrown Sunday at a home in the Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood of northern Jerusalem.

Jewish residents of the Neveh Ya'acov neighborhood demonstrated for the second consecutive night Sunday against the escalation of stone-throwing. Police intervened to prevent Jews from attacking the nearby Arab neighborhood of Dahiyat el-Barid.

The riots in Jerusalem and the curfews that followed -- a measure only rarely taken in Israel's capital -- seemed to mark a turning point.

The riots were unique in that they occurred in the Silwan, Abu Tor and Ras el-Amud areas, which had been relatively quiet in the past.

Abu Tor is a neighborhood with Jewish and Arab sections. Before the intifada, they coexisted harmoniously, but recently relations soured.

**IDF OFFICER ON TRIAL FOR ORDERING
TROOPS TO BEAT ARABS BLAMES RABIN**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force colonel, charged with ordering his troops to break the bones of Arab villagers in January 1988, has blamed the brutality on Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's defense minister at the time.

Col. Yehuda Meir testified at his trial last week that specific instructions to beat Arabs in confrontations in the West Bank came from Rabin, who said he would handle "noise" from the press.

He also implicated the IDF chief of staff, Gen. Dan Shomron, and Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, who at that time headed the IDF Central Command, which includes the West Bank.

"The permission to beat, which was given by the defense minister, the chief of staff and Mitzna, immediately created a situation which invited abuse per se. The army began behaving like a bunch of hooligans," Meir testified.

Rabin confirmed over the weekend that he instructed units confronting violent demonstrations to beat up the rioters. But he said that "those who acted according to those instructions were not put on trial."

"The trial of Col. Meir, to the best of my knowledge, relates to beatings which were carried out while not confronting violence," Rabin said.

NEWS ANALYSIS:

MANDELA'S STATEMENTS ON THE PLO PUT JEWISH GROUPS IN A QUANDARY

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, June 24 (JTA) -- Nelson Mandela's visit to the United States has become a moral and political quagmire for leaders of American Jewish organizations.

The deputy president of the African National Congress has received a hero's welcome during his triumphant visit to this country, but his unwavering support for Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat and Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi has consistently troubled Jewish community leaders.

It was Mandela's comments on ABC-TV's "national town meeting" broadcast last Thursday evening that most upset Jewish leaders.

In response to a question, Mandela stated that he considered Arafat a "comrade in arms." He defended his alliances by saying that his "attitude toward any country is determined by the attitude of that country to our struggle."

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, who was in the audience for the broadcast, expressed "profound disappointment" with Mandela's reasoning.

Siegman said that it suggested "a certain degree of amorality" to ignore a leader's human rights violations simply because that leader supports the African National Congress.

But Mandela stuck to his position, saying that black South Africans fighting for freedom "have no time to be looking into the internal affairs of other countries."

The broadcast triggered a number of statements of criticism and disappointment from a range of mainstream Jewish organizations.

No Regrets About Geneva Session

Mandela's position was especially troubling to the groups that met with him in Geneva on June 10, in advance of his arrival in New York: the American Jewish Committee, AJCongress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

For many of these groups, reacting to Mandela's statements brought into conflict two of their basic missions: their role as community relations organizations, trying to promote positive black-Jewish dialogue, and their role as defense organizations, defending Jewish interests and the State of Israel when they are under attack.

"For those involved in community relations, Mandela presented some ambiguities and ambivalences," said Rabbi A. James Rudin, interreligious affairs director for American Jewish Committee.

The groups that took part in the Geneva meeting said they did not regret it, though all condemned Mandela's latest comments.

Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director, contended that the purpose of going to Geneva was to get a sense of where Mandela stood on Israel. The Jewish leaders learned he unequivocally supports the right of the Jewish state to exist.

Foxman said Mandela had not stated anything on the ABC broadcast that he had not said in Geneva. Both in Geneva and on television, the ANC leader praised the Jewish community's role in the struggle against apartheid.

"We have been very much influenced by the lack of racialism amongst the Jewish communities," he said, adding that he had resisted pres-

sure from Gadhafi to bar Jewish participation in the ANC.

But the Jewish groups were troubled by Mandela's apparent double standard, when he said he would not intervene in the internal affairs of other governments, while calling on Americans to take an active role in fighting apartheid.

Voices Opposition To Territories

Rudin observed that Mandela had been "a beneficiary of people caring about the internal affairs of the South African government."

Foxman pointed out another "inconsistency" in Mandela's position. If the South African leader's policy is not to intervene in the internal affairs of other nations, "why all of a sudden define the borders of Israel?" Foxman asked.

Mandela has repeatedly expressed his strong opposition to the Israeli presence in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights, saying these are "Arab lands."

During his visit to the United Nations on Friday, Mandela was asked about his view of the 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism.

He replied, "It depends what is meant by Zionism. If Zionism means the right of Israel to occupy lands of other countries like the Golan Heights, West Bank, the Gaza Strip, then I condemn that. But if Zionism means the desire of the Jewish community to have their own state, then I support it."

Israeli government officials here were publicly far less critical of Mandela than the American Jewish groups, choosing to play down their differences with him and focusing instead on his statements supporting Israel's right to exist.

Johanan Bein, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, said he has heard far more inflammatory anti-Israel rhetoric from "leaders of great nations" than that coming from Mandela.

The Israeli government's calm approach to Mandela's statements suggest that it is Mandela's effect on black-Jewish relations that has caused the intensity of the concern among the American Jewish groups.

Many were concerned over the largely young, black members of the ABC broadcast audience who cheered when Mandela defended Arafat and booed Siegman's criticism of him.

Michael Miller, executive director of the New York Jewish Community Relations Council, called the audience reaction disquieting. "I hope that they were not applauding Mr. Arafat's record of death and destruction," he said.

Being Perceived As Spoilers

Despite their repeated support of Mandela's fight against apartheid, some Jewish leaders clearly fear they are in danger of looking like the spoilers at the ANC leader's party.

According to a left-wing Jewish critic, that is just what they are. Michael Lerner, editor of the progressive journal Tikkun, accused "a handful of Jewish leaders" of making Mandela's support for the PLO the "central focus" of his trip.

Most American Jews, he said in a statement to the press, "do not identify with Siegman or other Jewish leaders who are attempting to place opposition to the PLO in the middle of Mandela's celebratory visit."

On the other end of the political spectrum, Bronx Rabbi Avraham Weiss said he felt "vindicated" by Mandela's pro-PLO remarks. Weiss had been roundly criticized for his decision to demonstrate during Mandela's ticker-tape parade here.

AUSTRALIA TO CONTINUE TALKS WITH PLO IN MOVE CRITICIZED BY JEWISH LEADERS

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia June 24 (JTA) -- Australia's Jewish community has reacted angrily to the government's decision last week to continue its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Gareth Evans, the minister of foreign affairs and trade, announced last Thursday that although the government condemned the terrorist attack against Israel attempted May 30 by a PLO constituent group, it would not break off its dialogue with the PLO, begun in the 1970s and upgraded 18 months ago.

While "the present circumstances call for careful consideration of the level of such contacts and the formality of their context, I do not think it would be appropriate to turn the clock back by 17 or 18 years," Evans said.

The Australian decision came a day after President Bush announced that the United States was suspending its dialogue with the PLO until it condemned the May 30 attack and disciplined Mohammed (Abul) Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front, which carried out the terrorist operation.

But Evans, who is a member of the Australian Senate, said that "despite the 30 May attack and the PLO's refusal to condemn it, we continue to believe at this stage that important elements of the PLO are committed to renouncing terrorism and to searching for a lasting settlement in the Middle East."

Leslie Caplan, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, criticized the move by the government, saying it risks its own credibility unless it heeds calls to end the contacts.

"Unless Australia and other Western nations send a clear message to the PLO that it has not met the minimal requirements for participation in the peace process, it is reasonable to expect that terrorism will continue and terrorists become emboldened," Caplan said in an interview.

Jewish leaders are to meet with the prime minister next month to discuss a number of matters of serious concern. Contact with the PLO will be "high on the agenda," Caplan said.

TEL AVIV WATER SUPPLY CONTAMINATED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 24 (JTA) -- About a million people in the Greater Tel Aviv area have been instructed by the Health Ministry to boil their tap water until further notice, because of the high-level of E. coli bacteria in the water supply.

The order has touched off an angry dispute between Mekorot, the national water company, and the Tel Aviv municipality. The water comes from Lake Kinneret in Galilee, Israel's natural reservoir, and is carried by Mekorot pipelines.

According to Dr. Vera Adler, head of the public health service, the E. coli count in the Tel Aviv area water supply is seven times the permissible amount.

E. coli bacteria can cause unpleasant gastrointestinal symptoms and sometimes serious complications, especially among infants and the elderly.

Adler said the high bacteria count was probably due to algae growing in Lake Kinneret and the pipeline, which interfered with the cleansing action of the chlorine routinely added to the water supply.

REVISIONISTS ARRESTED IN HUNGARY

By Yehuda Lahav

BUDAPEST, June 24 (JTA) -- A man and woman have been arrested in the northwestern Hungarian city of Gyor for illegally promoting the mail order sale of a book that denies the Holocaust occurred.

The names of the suspects were not released. The woman is accused of renting a post office box and the man of printing leaflets soliciting orders in Hungary and abroad.

The book, titled "Freispruch Fuer Hitler" (Acquittal for Hitler) has been banned in Germany and Austria. The author and the publisher received suspended sentences of nine and six months respectively.

The book claims among other things that the Auschwitz gas chambers are "a lie of Jewish propaganda" intended to blackmail Germany and that the diary of Anne Frank is a forgery.

The Hungarian Foreign Ministry has declared the attempt to disseminate the book from Hungary unlawful and contrary to the constitution.

SERBIAN LEADER POSITIVE ON ISRAEL

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 24 (JTA) -- Serbia, one of the six socialist republics comprising Yugoslavia, has established good relations with Israel on all levels, according to its secretary of state for foreign affairs, Alexander Prija.

On a visit here, Prija said he hoped diplomatic relations would be established between Yugoslavia and Israel, a matter he has already raised with the federal government in Belgrade.

Responding to questions at a news conference, Prija said: "I have just returned from a visit to Israel with my assistants and a delegation of businessmen from Serbia. We have established good relations with Israel on all levels.

"Both Serbians and Israelis have suffered from the Nazi regime, and we hope for rapid developments between Serbia and Israel," he said.

ISRAEL'S FIRST U.S. ENVOY DEAD AT 86

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA) -- Eliahu Elath, a diplomat, journalist and scholar who was Israel's first ambassador to the United States, died here June 21, at the age of 86.

He served for six years as president of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, following his retirement from the foreign service in 1960.

Elath, born Eliahu Epstein in the Ukraine, was educated at the University of Kiev. He was an active Zionist and was imprisoned by the Soviet authorities for seven months before coming to Palestine in 1925.

Once in Palestine, he served as a correspondent for Reuters news agency, The Palestine Post and the Hebrew daily Davar. He later became a publicist for the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

When Israel declared independence on May 14, 1948, Elath headed the agency's political office in Washington. It was he who presented President Harry Truman with the official request by the provisional government of Israel for U.S. recognition of the new state. Truman complied.

Elath was appointed Israel's first envoy to Washington and was soon raised to the rank of ambassador. He was later appointed ambassador to Britain, where he served for a decade.