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**ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTS
KEY ELEMENTS OF BAKER PEACE PLAN**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has categorically rejected the key elements of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's formula for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

He told reporters here Tuesday that Israel would find absolutely unacceptable the inclusion of Arab residents of East Jerusalem or Palestinians deported from the administered territories in peace talks with Israel.

According to Levy, those were "demands of the Palestine Liberation Organization."

"We say yes to Baker and no to the PLO," he said.

Observers said the new foreign minister's remarks were the most explicit "no" to the secretary of state yet enunciated by a high-ranking member of Israel's new government.

Until now, Israeli ministers and other officials have implied rejection of Baker's ideas without saying so outright. But Levy left nothing to the imagination, reporters pointed out.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, along with Levy and other senior officials, are drafting a reply to President Bush, who wrote to Shamir last week asking for his ideas about how the peace process should proceed. The substance of the reply is expected to affirm the position taken by Levy, though less bluntly.

Baker's formula was the result of months of quiet diplomacy in cooperation with Egypt, aimed at bringing Israelis and Palestinian representatives together in Cairo.

Meets With U.N. Envoy

Their first order of business would be to discuss the modalities of Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, originally proposed by Shamir in May 1989. Palestinian delegates elected in that referendum would negotiate with Israel over autonomy and eventually the final status of the territories.

The Likud-Labor unity government collapsed March 15, after Likud refused to give an affirmative answer to Baker. The government's Labor component was amenable to his proposals.

Levy spoke to reporters after meeting with Jean-Claude Aime, a U.N. Middle East expert visiting Israel and the territories as an emissary of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

He said that to agree to include deportees in a Palestinian delegation would be tantamount to letting the PLO appoint the Palestinian negotiating team.

He also said it would set a precedent for allowing those deported to return to the territories, which he said Israel would not countenance.

Levy objected to the participation of East Jerusalem Arabs, because that would make the question of Jerusalem the central focus of the proposed talks. Israel, which annexed East Jerusalem in 1967, insists the status of the united city is not negotiable.

Levy expressed hope that "these two matters will not become an obstacle to the Israeli peace initiative."

**EGYPTIAN SAYS CAIRO IS WAITING
FOR A POSITIVE SIGN FROM ISRAEL**

By David Friedman and Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 26 (JTA) -- The United States and Egypt promised Tuesday to continue trying to move the Middle East peace process forward, but indicated that the next step is up to Israel.

"We are certainly ready to respond to any positive sign from the Israeli government," Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid said after a half-hour meeting with President Bush.

"We are dealing with a democratic government, so we are waiting for them to show those positive signs. And as far as Egypt is concerned, I'm sure we shall try to encourage these signs."

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Bush assured Meguid that "the United States is committed to continuing the peace process. We want to work as best we can to get a dialogue going" between Israel and the Palestinians, he said.

Meguid was sent to Washington on Sunday after Bush and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak spoke by telephone that weekend. After his White House meeting, the foreign minister met separately with Secretary of State James Baker.

Meguid brought a letter to Bush from Mubarak, which he described as "a message of peace."

"Egypt is trying to play a role in the area as an element of moderation and stability, and we will keep on with that role," the foreign minister said.

"We are trying to promote peace and understanding in the Middle East between all the parties, and this is the role of Egypt. We are aware of the difficulties, but we are not afraid of them."

Suspension Of PLO Talks Discussed

Meguid's unscheduled visit was seen as an effort by the Bush administration to shore up Egypt's position as the main Middle East partner of the United States in trying to bring about an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, in the wake of Arab anger over Bush's suspension of the U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Bush told Meguid that "that we continue to look to the PLO to make those actions and statements that would allow us to resume a dialogue at some point in the future," Fitzwater said.

The president wants the PLO to condemn the thwarted attack on Tel Aviv beaches May 30 by one of its member groups, the Palestine Liberation Front, and to take disciplinary action against the group's leader, Mohammed (Abul) Abbas.

Meguid said he was encouraged by his discussions with Bush. He did not elaborate on his White House statements after meeting with Baker.

There is some Israeli pique that Meguid got to see Bush, while the United States has still not invited Israel's new foreign minister, David Levy, to Washington.

Asked if he would meet with Levy, Meguid replied, "Inshallah," a common Arabic saying meaning "if God is willing."

BOMB EXPLOSION IS THE LATEST SIGN OF RISING CIVIL STRIFE IN JERUSALEM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- Civil strife is worsening in Jerusalem, where police are desperately trying to prevent further clashes between Arab and Jewish residents, so far with limited success.

An already tense situation was aggravated further Tuesday morning, when a bomb exploded at a bus stop in the Baka neighborhood, slightly injuring two pedestrians. Police detained 30 Arabs for questioning.

Two days earlier, an explosive device was found on top of a canister of cooking gas in a house five minutes' walk from local police headquarters on Shivtei Yisrael Street. It was safely dismantled by police sappers.

Earlier on Sunday, a gasoline bomb was hurled at a Jewish house in the Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood. No one was hurt.

The worst of the unrest to hit the city in recent days occurred in Neveh Ya'acov and nearby Dahiyat el-Barid. On Saturday and Sunday evenings, Arabs from that neighborhood hurled rocks at Jewish vehicles and homes, causing property damage.

Jews from Neveh Ya'acov mounted retaliatory attacks on the Arab neighborhood both nights. On Monday night, heavily reinforced police patrolled Neveh Ya'acov to forestall a repetition of the violence.

The police fired tear gas to discourage both sides.

Before long, the Jewish residents were as angry at the police as they were at the Arabs. They dismissed assurances by Jerusalem Police Chief Arye Bibi that the situation was under control.

Volunteer Patrols Urged

The current spate of unrest began last week in three Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem that previously had been quiet. They were put under curfew from last Friday to Sunday.

Ya'acov Turner, inspector-general of the national police, attributed the escalation to the U.S. suspension of its 18-month-old dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization, a move long urged by Israel.

Repercussions were felt in the West Bank, where a violent clash between Israel Defense Force troops and residents of a refugee camp in Tulkarm resulted in the fatal shooting of a 29-year-old mother of 10 children, Hiam Masoud Rashed, whose youngest child is 3 months old.

So far, the Arabs have suffered the most casualties in Jerusalem as well. Four have been killed in clashes with police there during the last three months. Two of the fatalities occurred in the Silwan neighborhood this past week.

It may be significant that no Arab was killed by police fire when the Jerusalem police was commanded by the late Yosef Yehudai, who died a year ago.

Police policy in general has been to take softer measures against Arab residents of Jerusalem than the IDF uses against intifada activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

One reason is to stress the difference of status between Jerusalem, which is the capital and an integral part of the nation, and the administered territories.

But Jewish residents are impatient. They

expect the police to prevent all manifestations of the intifada in the city.

Turner has urged Neveh Ya'acov residents to volunteer for the Civil Guard, patrols of armed citizens that operate under police supervision. To date, the turnout has been poor.

Levy Meets With Bethlehem Mayor

Police Minister Ronni Milo promised Monday that the police would set up a special unit in Jerusalem, to be known as the Gideonites, after the biblical warriors. He said it would use "unconventional methods" to combat the intifada.

Meanwhile, Likud leaders are speaking of the need to "renew the dialogue with the moderate leadership in the territories."

Defense Minister Moshe Arens on Tuesday visited Elias Freij, the veteran mayor of Bethlehem, to discuss the situation in the territories. It was the first time Arens had been to Bethlehem since his previous stint as defense minister six years ago.

He and Freij discussed means to grapple with the intifada, but there was no indication that their talk yielded anything of substance.

Freij is regarded as one of the more moderate Palestinian leaders. Still, he has often gone on record identifying the PLO as "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

46-YEAR-OLD JERUSALEMITE CHARGED AS LEADER OF SICARII UNDERGROUND

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 26 (JTA) -- The police have charged a 46-year-old Jerusalem man with being the founder and chief operator of a Jewish underground terrorist group called Sicarii, which is believed responsible for about a dozen attacks on prominent left-wing Israelis during the past year.

Joel Adler, a contractor, was arrested three weeks ago. His detention was not disclosed until Tuesday when he appeared before Tel Aviv Magistrate Chaim Einat, who ordered him held in custody.

Adler, who appealed the order to a district court, was granted \$25,000 conditional bail.

He will remain in custody until Thursday, when the district court reviews new evidence the police might produce.

So far, the evidence is reported to be only circumstantial. The police say they need more time to establish a case against Adler which would stand up in court. Adler strenuously denies the charges.

The hearing in magistrates court was held behind closed doors. The media were given only the name of the suspect and the nature of the charge. Details of the investigation were withheld.

But it is known that Adler is alleged to have been the principal activist of Sicarii and had no more than one or two accomplices.

The group takes its name from a radical gang of zealots, so called because each carried a "sica," or dagger, that operated during the Jewish revolt against Rome in the first century C.E.

Sicarii has claimed credit for setting fire to the front doors of the homes of prominent Israeli authors, poets, journalists, popular song writers, entertainers and others deemed to be leftists.

Adler is linked to the far right in Israel. He has been associated with the Tehiya party, with Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach extremist movement and with Gush Emunim, all of which dissociated themselves from him on Tuesday.

ISRAEL AND JEWISH AGENCY ADOPT PLAN TO ABSORB 450,000 OLIM OVER 3 YEARS

By Charles Hoffman

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- A multi-billion-dollar plan for the absorption of 450,000 Soviet immigrants over the next three years was approved Tuesday by officials of the Israeli government and leaders of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

The plan, hammered out during a meeting of the government-Jewish Agency Coordinating Committee, anticipates 150,000 Soviet immigrants arriving each year for the next three years, at a cost of \$2.3 billion annually.

The blueprint calls for construction of 45,000 apartments each year, in addition to 6,000 already under construction, and the renovation of 4,000 public housing apartments.

Some \$400 million of the overall sum represents direct government outlays for housing construction, while another \$1 billion has been set aside to guarantee purchase of these apartments from private contractors if buyers cannot be found.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, who heads a ministerial committee on absorption, said at the meeting that starting in December, Israel will need 7,000 apartments each month to meet the demands of both newcomers and veterans.

He said his ministry will purchase 40,000 prefabricated houses in Israel and abroad, 3,000 of which are already on order.

About \$30 million will be spent on job retraining and job creation, and \$85 million will go to infrastructure, including roads, sewage and communications.

The cost of bringing the 150,000 immigrants and their freight to Israel will be \$150 million, to be paid entirely by the Jewish Agency, which operates on funds raised in the United States by the United Jewish Appeal and elsewhere by Keren Hayesod.

An additional \$500 million will be set aside for initial absorption grants. Until now, the Jewish Agency has paid half of these grants, but its share may be reduced if additional funds cannot be raised abroad or produced by cuts in other agency activities.

Diaspora Urged To Raise More

The plan approved by the Coordinating Committee on Tuesday points out that the \$600 million now being raised by UJA and Keren Hayesod in their Operation Exodus campaign was based on the assumption that 80,000 Soviet Jews would be arriving in Israel per year.

"In view of the welcome growth in the number of olim, the government of Israel and the Jewish Agency request that the fund-raising organizations amend the amounts that they are committed to raise, according to the estimates of aliyah," the plan states.

UJA leaders are reluctant to tamper with Operation Exodus at this point by raising targets in the middle of the campaign, which will be completed early next year.

Veteran Jewish Agency leader Max Fisher said that more money could be raised in the Diaspora. But he said the government must prove that its absorption plans are being implemented with the utmost speed.

If this does not happen, he cautioned, pressure will mount on the U.S. Congress to increase entry quotas for Soviet Jews beyond the 40,000

annual level, which he said would be a "disaster."

Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai told the Jewish Agency Assembly on Tuesday that, given the unprecedented challenge of the mass Soviet aliyah, world Jewry has no choice but to produce massive donations by borrowing money, cutting services in Diaspora communities and sending a greater share of funds to Israel.

"I have been told," Modai said, "that there are limits on the amount of money world Jewry can raise. You can only do what you can. But this time I must plead, even demand, for you to do more than you can. Whatever you can do is not enough."

'You Must Cut Services'

"For the next two or three years," he said, "you must cut services in your communities for the aged, for education and other needs. Won't we have to do the same in Israel?"

"But if you can't increase your aid to us," he added, "then we will still carry the burden, but with much greater suffering."

Sharon admitted to the assembly that the government should have started building houses for the immigrants earlier. He said Israel would open its doors to foreign builders and try to cut the red tape that has hampered all foreign investment.

Referring to past feuding between the government and the Jewish Agency, Sharon pledged to cooperate with "anyone who wants to help" in planning and carrying out absorption.

"There is enough room for all of us, enough difficulties to share, and enough honor to go around if we manage to succeed. Let's do it together," he said.

PLAN TO REFORM JEWISH EDUCATION KILLED BY ZIONISTS IN CLOSE VOTE

By Charles Hoffman

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- A major initiative to reform the Jewish education programs of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency was defeated by one vote Monday night by leaders of the WZO.

The reform plan, which took over two years to devise, was supposed to consolidate and streamline Jewish education programs for the Diaspora run by the agency and WZO, which spend about \$50 million each year in this area.

The reform also was supposed to give Diaspora fund-raising organizations, which fund the agency and WZO, a say in how the WZO runs its programs.

The 61-60 vote, which was conducted by secret ballot, took place in the Zionist General Council, the governing body of the WZO.

When the council convened last week, a firm coalition supported the plan. It included Labor Zionists, Mapam, Hadassah, the Association of Reform Zionists of America and Mercaz, the Conservative Zionist movement. Likud was adamantly against the plan, while Mizrahi, representing Orthodox Zionists, was bitterly divided.

It appears that the plan failed to pass because a handful of Reform and Conservative delegates voted against it.

They were angry with Labor for breaking its promise to introduce certain changes in the original proposal that would allocate more educational resources for Reform and Conservative needs. Labor backed down due to strong opposition from the Orthodox.

**ORTHODOX GROUP APPLAUDS RULING
IN MISSOURI 'RIGHT TO DIE' CASE**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 26 (JTA) -- Agudath Israel of America has welcomed the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision Monday that states have the right to prevent the family of a comatose patient from removing life-sustaining equipment.

The Orthodox group had filed a brief in support of the state of Missouri, which had prevented the parents of Nancy Cruzan, a 32-year-old woman in a permanent vegetative state since a 1983 automobile accident, from removing the feeding tubes that have kept her alive.

The majority opinion, written by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, upheld the Missouri state Supreme Court's ruling that because there was no "clear and convincing" evidence that Cruzan wanted to have the life-sustaining equipment withdrawn, her parents lacked the authority to have it done.

At the same time, Rehnquist indicated that a competent patient has a constitutional right to refuse such life-sustaining equipment.

But David Zwiebel, general counsel and director of government affairs for Agudath Israel, disputed the general interpretation that states could not intervene to protect the so-called "right to die."

Zwiebel maintained the court ruling means that while there may be a constitutional right to decline life-sustaining measures, a state's interest in protecting life can override the individual right.

To argue that the patient's right "is unlimited is essentially saying that suicide is legal," he said. "I don't believe that the court has ruled clearly that an individual has an unlimited right."

Halachah Upholds Sanctity Of Life

He said the case makes clear that the state is free to insist on clear and convincing evidence that an individual does not want to live if kept alive only by artificial means.

The Supreme Court found no such evidence in the Cruzan case, although the parents maintained that their daughter had expressed such a wish.

Zwiebel argued that even if the court made the "hypothetical assumption" that Cruzan would have had such a right, the decision "did not indicate it (the court) would indeed hold in favor of such a right where a state sought to restrict it."

Zwiebel said that halachah, or traditional Jewish law, requires that the sanctity of human life is worth preserving, even when the quality of life is diminished.

Halachah would allow a patient, in "certain extreme circumstances," to request not to be hooked up to life-sustaining equipment, he said.

But there is no general rule, and each case would have to be treated on an individual basis and in consultation with a rabbi, he stressed.

William Rapfogel, executive director of the Institute for Public Affairs of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, said his organization also believes that each case would have to be dealt with individually. There is no general position on this issue, he said.

Meanwhile, Agudath Israel is contemplating circulating a form within the Jewish community, in which an individual could ensure that if he or she became incapacitated, the treatment would be in accordance with halachah, Zwiebel said.

SHEKEL DEVALUED 1.5 PERCENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- An upsurge of demand for foreign currency in recent days resulted Tuesday in an unofficial 1.5 percent devaluation of the shekel relative to the U.S. dollar.

The new rate is 2.10 shekels to \$1. That is 3 percent more than it was on June 20, and brings to 8 percent the decrease in the value of the shekel over the last three months.

The drop in the shekel's value was described as "an adjustment of the representative exchange rate of the dollar."

The demand for dollars was attributed to the business community's anticipation of drastic economic measure by Israel's new finance minister, Yitzhak Moda'i.

The Bank of Israel, the country's central bank, has leeway to reduce the shekel by another 2 percent before the finance minister must declare an official devaluation.

He is expected to do so by July 1, when the Treasury announces a new economic package.

ANNE POLLARD GOING TO ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 26 (JTA) -- Anne Pollard, wife of Jonathan Pollard, an American convicted in 1985 of spying for Israel, will come to Israel for medical treatment at the end of June or early in July, Ma'ariv reported Tuesday.

A statement released Tuesday in New York said the U.S. Parole Commission has granted Pollard permission to seek treatment in Israel.

She was paroled earlier this year after serving five years in federal prisons as an accomplice after-the-fact in her husband's espionage activities.

Jonathan Pollard, a former civilian employee of the U.S. Navy, is serving a life sentence.

Anne Pollard has been suffering from a severe intestinal disorder for which she says she cannot obtain treatment in the United States because she lacks medical insurance.

According to Ma'ariv, Pollard was recently turned away from Beekman Hospital in Manhattan for that reason.

Ma'ariv said she would be treated at a hospital in Jerusalem.

The duration of her stay is unknown, but she has asked for "complete quiet" while undergoing medical treatment, the newspaper said.

SHARANSKY AND MANDELA TO MEET

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, June 26 (JTA) -- Nelson Mandela and Natan Sharansky are set to meet Friday in Los Angeles, the Anti-Defamation League has announced.

Jewish leaders had hoped that the Mandela-Sharansky meeting would have taken place earlier in the week in New York, but Sharansky had a previous commitment.

He will fly to Los Angeles from his home in Israel to meet with his fellow former political prisoner.

Sharansky spent eight-and-a-half years in a Soviet jail after being charged with treason for having applied to emigrate to Israel.

Both men were released exactly four years apart, on Feb. 11.