

**BUSH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS DENY  
THEY ARE STILL ACTIVELY COURTING PLO**  
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, July 5 (JTA) -- Bush administration officials have denied a report that the United States is still actively trying to persuade the Palestine Liberation Organization to meet U.S. conditions for a resumption of the dialogue President Bush suspended last month.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that the administration is engaged in a secret initiative to convince the PLO to punish the perpetrators of the May 30 terrorist attack on Israeli beaches near Tel Aviv, which was foiled by Israeli soldiers.

The paper said the United States has informed PLO leader Yasir Arafat, through Egypt, that the 18-month dialogue can be resumed if he disciplines Mohammed (Abul) Abbas, whose Palestine Liberation Front carried out the aborted attack.

But administration officials said Thursday that the United States had not conveyed any messages to the PLO through Egypt. "We did not use and we are not using the Egyptians to send messages to the PLO at the moment," said one official.

Rather, it appears that Egypt is relaying the substance of its conversations with the United States to the PLO, though not as direct U.S. requests.

For example, Arafat was briefed on discussions Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid held in Washington last week with Bush and Secretary of State James Baker. Meguid had rushed to Washington after Bush spoke to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak by phone.

The meeting was "precipitated by the rupture in the dialogue" with the PLO, an Egyptian Embassy official confirmed.

Administration officials also deny the Post's contention that the United States has "slightly softened" the president's conditions for resuming the dialogue.

**No PNC Meeting Till November**

According to the Post report, Egypt has told the PLO that the United States would be prepared to resume the dialogue if Arafat ousted Abbas from the PLO executive committee.

Even if this is true, it is not likely to happen, at least in the near future.

Arafat claims Abbas can only be ousted by the Palestine National Council, the PLO's legislative body, which is not scheduled to meet again until November.

Arafat feels he does "not unilaterally have the organizational authority to expel him from the executive committee," a U.S. official said.

Another official said, "We've seen no indication that they've tried to get a meeting together," adding that convening a special meeting by the PNC would be viewed as "bowing to U.S. pressure."

Meanwhile, European governments, as well as other Arab governments, are continuing to pressure the PLO to take conciliatory steps, a State Department official said.

But the United States has not asked any of

them to apply the pressure, the official said. Rather, those countries are "anxious" for the dialogue to be restored, because they view it as a "necessary step in moving the peace process," the official explained.

Egypt, too, has a major stake in resumption of the dialogue.

Egypt has been serving as the primary channel between the United States and the PLO, even though until last month, U.S. officials were engaged in direct talks with PLO officials in Tunis.

As the second largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid, ranking only behind Israel, Egypt would like to continue serving a constructive role in the peace process by mediating between the United States and the Palestinians.

Moreover, as the only Arab state to have made peace with Israel, Egypt would like to demonstrate that moderation in the Arab-Israeli conflict can have dividends for the Arab world.

By contrast, the United States views the dialogue in Tunisia as "just an adjunct to the peace process," an administration official said.

To the United States, "the dialogue helped encourage the PLO to permit that process to take place without serving as a spoiler," he explained.

According to the official, without the dialogue, the peace process "could continue, although it will probably be more difficult, given that we don't have that pressure point."

Similarly, Helena Cobban, visiting peace fellow at George Mason University and an expert on the PLO, said, "The peace process is not contingent on there being direct modes of communication between the United States and the PLO."

She did not rule out the possibility that Arafat would unilaterally try to expel Abbas.

"I'm sure he wouldn't be the first politician in the world to find his way around constitutional difficulties," she said.

**ARENS REITERATES SHAMIR'S OFFER  
PROPOSING PEACE TALKS WITH SYRIA**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Moshe Arens has renewed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's overture to Damascus telling Israel Radio on Thursday that Israel is ready to enter into immediate negotiations with Syria.

Despite the differences between the two countries, everything begins with dialogue, Arens said. "As far as we are concerned, we are ready to talk."

Last month, in an interview published in the Egyptian newspaper Mayo, the organ of Egypt's ruling National Democratic Party, Shamir challenged Syrian President Hafez Assad to visit Israel for peace talks "with no preconditions."

The interview appeared five days after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker expressed frustration with Israel's rejection of his formula for a peace dialogue with the Palestinians, and suggested that the Israelis were in fact not interested in peace.

The Likud government maintains that the Middle East conflict can be resolved only by peace between Israel and the Arab states, and

that the Palestinian dispute will then be resolved.

The United States and most of its Western allies take the opposite view.

Shamir's offer was, in any event, flatly rejected by Assad.

But Arens said that based on the improved relations between Syria and Egypt, he still hopes Syria will choose "the path of pragmatism," and that President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt "will bring Assad to the course of peace, rather than the other way around."

Other prominent members of Likud are apprehensive about the new Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement.

Eliahu Ben-Elissar, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and Israel's first ambassador to Cairo, has warned against its possible negative effects.

Arens observed that so far nothing has surfaced "which could serve as a basis for the desired contact with the Syrians."

On the contrary, he pointed out that the Syrians still talk of creating a strategic balance with Israel.

"They have a big army and all that is needed is one man's decision," Arens pointed out, referring to Assad's dictatorial powers.

For that reason, he said, Israel maintains a "permanent state of alertness."

Another ominous possibility is a detente between Syria and Iraq, which could occur despite the continued animosity between Assad and the Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein.

Past experience has shown that when these two Arab states form a coalition against Israel, suddenly their differences disappear, Arens said.

#### **HEAD OF HEZBOLLAH THREATENS VIOLENCE AGAINST ISRAEL, U.S.**

By David Kantor

BONN, July 5 (JTA) -- The leader of the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah says he is not considering the release of American hostages, and has threatened new violence against Israel, the United States and Western Europe in an interview published in the West German magazine Stern.

Hussein Musawi, who heads the pro-Iranian Islamic fundamentalist group called "party of God," offered to make a bargain with the West German government, the Hamburg weekly reported.

He said two German hostages, Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kempner, would be freed if West Germany released the brothers Mohamad and Ali Hamadei, both serving 10-years-to-life sentences for terrorist acts.

But Musawi offered no deals to the United States or Israel. Stern quoted him as saying that violence is "the only way to oppose the Zionist occupation of Palestinian lands."

He accused the West of supporting the "occupation" and said Israel should be "annihilated and wiped out."

Mohamad Hamadei, arrested in West Germany, was convicted of hijacking an American airliner and killing one of its passengers.

He was tried in a West German court after the Bonn government refused an American request for extradition.

Ali Hamadei was convicted of kidnapping two West German nationals to hold hostage for the release of his brother.

The hostages, Alfred Schmidt and Rudolf Cordes, were eventually freed.

#### **U.N. CHIEF REPORTS ON ENVOY'S TRIP, SPEAKS OF 'ANGUISH' OVER MIDDLE EAST** By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, July 5 (JTA) -- U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has expressed satisfaction with the Middle East mission undertaken last week by his aide, Jean-Claude Aime, who visited Israel and the administered territories as his special emissary.

The secretary-general, who is visiting Geneva, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Aime had prepared a detailed report of his mission, which included meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levy and other top Israeli officials.

Aime received full cooperation with Israeli authorities, who permitted him to meet with Arabs in the territories and in Israel, he said.

When asked what Aime's report contained, Perez de Cuellar said he was still analyzing it.

Aime, who is from Haiti and considered one of the top Middle East expert at U.N. headquarters in New York, was invited by the Israeli government, though his trip in fact had already been ordered by the secretary-general.

Perez de Cuellar reported on his envoy's mission during his annual news conference at the United Nations' European headquarters here.

He spoke poignantly of the urgency of advancing the Middle East peace process. "I follow with anguish the situation in the Middle East, and as long as it is not resolved, we shall live with this anguish and menace," he said.

He observed that "around the world, things are changing rapidly, except in the Middle East."

"It is breaking my heart that nothing is moving in the Middle East and to know that I will leave my post with this big frustration that I could not make things move there," he said.

Perez de Cuellar made clear that he favors an international solution.

#### **PERES WINS A ROUND IN BATTLE OVER WHO WILL LEAD LABOR PARTY** By Hugh Ogel

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- Shimon Peres won a skirmish in his battle with former Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin over leadership of the Labor Party when the party's Leadership Bureau decided to postpone a crucial meeting of the Central Committee for another two weeks.

The committee was to have convened Thursday, at the urging of the Rabin camp, to decide when the party will choose its next chairman and how and by whom the voting will be conducted.

Peres, beleaguered by Rabin's increasing support in Labor's leadership ranks, has been trying to delay a decision and has twice succeeded in doing so.

The Central Committee is now set to convene July 21. Peres told reporters he thought that was a "sensible" decision.

But it is not certain that he will be able to convince the Central Committee to hold off on elections until the term of the present Knesset expires two years from now.

Peres insists he was re-elected party chairman in 1988 for the full term of the Knesset, and that the office of chairman makes him Labor's prime ministerial candidate in the next elections.

But Labor's Constitutional Committee has ruled that the chairman and the candidate need not be the same person.

**POLICE PROBE MYSTERIOUS PAMPHLETS THAT TELL HOW TO PERPETRATE VIOLENCE**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- Police are investigating a pamphlet widely circulated in the West Bank that gives Jewish settlers detailed instructions on how to perpetrate violence against Palestinians and cast the blame on security forces.

The inquiry was ordered by Attorney General Yosef Harish on Thursday, weeks after the anonymous pamphlets first appeared and only after Harish was approached by Knesset member Ran Cohen of the Citizens Rights Movement who read about them in the press.

The pamphlet is professionally written, indicating the author is familiar with security matters.

It instructs settlers how to get weapons, how to hide the traces of shooting them and how to mislead the security forces. Settlers are advised to store ammunition and explosives, preferably the kind likely to be stolen from the army.

The pamphlet suggests that some ammunition the army uses for training should be stockpiled for "Israel's security needs."

Settlers are encouraged to take individual action against Arab targets, which the official security forces fail to do for fear of "political and media pressures."

They are advised to wear military uniforms so that responsibility for the action will point to the Israel Defense Force.

The pamphlet also advises settlers that if caught, to behave like prisoners of war, answering no questions and not cooperating with their interrogators.

The pamphlet was roundly condemned in the Knesset by right-wing as well as left-wing members.

**RABIN DENIES GIVING ORDERS TO BREAK BONES OF PALESTINIANS**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- Former Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin has flatly denied allegations that he gave orders to break the bones of Palestinian rioters shortly after the intifada began in December 1987.

Speaking at a meeting with members of the Foreign Press Association here Wednesday, Rabin said there was no evidence to back up such charges should he ever have to answer in court or before a commission of inquiry.

He referred to the contention by several senior Israel Defense Force officers facing disciplinary action for brutality that they were acting on explicit instructions from Defense Minister Rabin when soldiers under their command tied and beat Palestinians.

Rabin explained to the journalists that in the early days of the intifada, the IDF was faced with the previously unknown phenomenon of widespread civil disturbances.

Because he did not want to use firearms against civilians, Rabin said, he borrowed from the police force a system of riot control.

Troops were ordered to storm the rioters "beating them with fists and batons, not to punish them but to hurt them and force them to cease their assault," Rabin said.

He said the soldiers also had orders to "handcuff and detain" the rioters.

**COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST ISRAEL FOR NEGLECTING ETHIOPIAN IMMIGRANTS**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 5 (JTA) -- A leader of the Ethiopian Jewish community has complained that Ethiopian immigrants are getting short shrift from the Israeli authorities compared to the attention given immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Avraham Yadgai, who heads an organization of Ethiopian Jews, was quoted by Ma'ariv as charging that the government is not doing enough to bring to Israel the thousands of Jews remaining in Ethiopia.

He said that since Israel and Ethiopia re-established diplomatic relations last year, Israel has not, in his opinion, made sufficient efforts to establish direct flights between the two countries in order to bring in the remaining Ethiopian Jews as quickly as possible.

But Ethiopian recruits are getting special attention from the Israel Defense Force, according to a report in Yediot Achronot on Wednesday.

The IDF has instructed Gadna, the paramilitary youth movement, to give pre-induction help to young Ethiopians on how to adjust to the military environment before they start basic training.

Brig. Gen. Yossi Lipman, deputy chief of the Manpower Branch at General Headquarters, was quoted as saying he knows "of no other community which has been so well and quickly absorbed into the IDF as the Ethiopian community."

Gadna was also called on to solve the problem of 30 IDF regulars who preferred to live in Tel Aviv's Central Bus Station rather than the housing offered them by the Absorption Ministry.

After a meeting last week, nine soldiers agreed to accept the housing.

**PRAGUE ART EXHIBIT INTRODUCES ISRAELI ARTISTS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA**  
By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, July 5 (JTA) -- The first exhibition of Israeli art opened at the Prague Jewish Museum on Tuesday, with ceremonies attended by leaders of Czechoslovak cultural and political life.

"Shalom Jerusalem" features modern posters and large color photographs of Jerusalem scenes, and introduces Israeli artists for the first time to the Czech public, including painter Raphie Etgar and photographer Alisa Urbach.

The exhibit, organized by the museum in conjunction with the Czech Society of Jewish Culture and the Czechoslovak Society of Friends of Israel, is being held in the building of a former synagogue, which is now part of the Jewish Museum.

In Amsterdam, meanwhile, an unusual exhibition has opened at the Jewish Historical Museum that consists of photographs of largely abandoned synagogues on New York's Lower East Side.

The photographs are by Wijnanda Deroo, who is not Jewish. Her synagogue interiors are almost devoid of human figures and create an impression of desolation.

Critics wondered why Deroo chose empty synagogues on the Lower East Side, which is no longer a Jewish neighborhood, instead of active synagogues elsewhere in the city, which would have given a more balanced picture of Jewish religious life in New York.

(JTA correspondent Henrietta Boas in Amsterdam contributed to this report.)

## 25 HEADSTONES SMASHED, DEFACED IN OLD JEWISH CEMETERY IN ENGLAND

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, July 5 (JTA) -- British Jewry has reacted with shock and anger over one of the worst incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism in years.

As security precautions were tightened at Jewish institutions all over the country, police searched for the perpetrators of what appears to have been a daylight assault on the oldest Jewish cemetery in the northern city of Leeds.

About 25 headstones were smashed and others were defaced with red spray-painted slogans such as "Kill the Jews," "Jews die" and "Adolf Hitler."

The incident was larger in scale than the attack on the Edmonton Jewish Federation Cemetery in northern London in May, and much more sophisticated.

Security officials noted that the graves of some people who died in 1938 were daubed with the words "Crystal Night '90," an apparent reference to Kristallnacht, the first organized, state-run pogrom in Nazi Germany, which occurred Nov. 9-10, 1938.

"These graves were carefully picked out, so we believe the vandals were working in daylight and knew what they were doing," one official said.

"We feel shock and horror at this incident, which extends hatred to the dead as well as the living," said Hayim Pinner, secretary-general of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Richard Manning, chairman of the Leeds Representative Council, described the attack as "vile and dastardly," and urged citizens to keep "a careful watch for anything suspicious and immediately alert the authorities."

Manning suggested the incident could have been a copycat of the desecration of the ancient Jewish cemetery in Carpentras in southern France during the night of May 9-10, an outrage that captured international attention.

## SOVIET JEWISH CEMETERY DESECRATED

WASHINGTON, July 5 (JTA) -- Jewish graves and monuments were vandalized and defaced with swastikas in two Soviet cities last week, reports the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

According to Soviet Jewish activist Alexander Shmukler, the word "Zhid" was scrawled on several tombstones in cemeteries in Moscow and Nalchik, a Russian town near the Georgian border.

Sources in Moscow noted that in the Vagan'Kovskoe cemetery in Moscow, tombstones inscribed with any Jewish-sounding names were covered with anti-Semitic graffiti or destroyed.

UCSJ leaders reiterated their call for President Mikhail Gorbachev to publicly denounce anti-Semitism.

## BRITAIN REFUSES TO TAKE UP CASE AGAINST SPREADING OF BLOOD LIBEL

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, July 5 (JTA) -- The Crown Prosecution Service has refused to take action against the publishers of a vicious blood libel of Jews, which hypocritically preaches vigilance against the evils of anti-Semitism.

Leaflets delivered to homes in the affluent Kensington and Chelsea sections of London assume the truth of the myth that Jews in medieval times

murdered Christian children and used their blood in religious rituals.

"It is our belief that such ancient horror stories are best forgotten, for if they were extensively revived, they might contribute to the already increasing spread of anti-Semitism, against which we must all be eternally vigilant," the leaflet says.

It adds, "Instead of dwelling on the past, it would be more constructive for Jews of good will to campaign for the removal from the seminal text of Judaism -- especially the Talmud -- incitements to hatred of gentiles in general and Christian people in particular."

Invented quotes from the Talmud follow.

An investigator from Crown Prosecution Services rejected complaints about the leaflet, published by the "Gentile Self-Defense League."

According to the investigator, the text "does not appear to be threatening, abusive or insulting. The tone is conciliatory," he wrote.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews expressed concern over the failure to prosecute.

"Existing legislation is strong enough to cope with such issues; it is the will that appears lacking," a Board of Deputies spokesman said.

## EX-HEAD OF W. GERMAN REPUBLICANS SAYS PARTY IS HAVEN FOR NEO-NAZIS

By David Kantor

BONN, July 5 (JTA) -- Former Waffen SS officer Franz Schoenhuber has accused the extreme right-wing Republican Party that he used to head of becoming a haven for neo-Nazis.

Schoenhuber, 68, made the accusation after he was expelled from the party for allegedly trying to injure its reputation.

He charged Monday that his successors have surrendered to racists and other extremists who infiltrated the party, and said they allowed it to be used by neo-Nazi activists trying to influence large numbers of politically uncommitted citizens.

Under Schoenhuber's leadership, the Munich-based Republicans scored some unexpected electoral successes in recent years, including national balloting for the European Parliament.

The party drew votes away from Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conservative Christian Democratic Union.

But its extreme nationalistic platform became largely irrelevant as East and West Germany moved swiftly toward unification.

The Republicans suffered a succession of humiliating defeats in recent local and regional elections and are now marginal to German politics.

## WRITER FINED FOR DENYING HOLOCAUST

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 5 (JTA) -- A writer who denied the Holocaust occurred was fined Thursday \$3,000 and given a four-month suspended sentence in the town of Melun, southeast of Paris, after being found guilty of slandering the dead.

The defendant, Michel Konen, was the first revisionist writer to be sentenced.

A part-time historian, he denied the existence of gas chambers and extermination camps in an article published in the small provincial newspaper, Le Pays Briard.

Its editor, Michel Vincent, who argued that the freedom of the press was being violated, was fined a similar amount.