

**EGYPTIAN PRESSES SETTLEMENT ISSUE  
AS TALKS ON PEACE CONFERENCE GO ON**  
By Jackie Rothenberg

NEW YORK, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- The United States is continuing its fast-paced effort toward setting up a Middle East peace conference, in the hope of convening it before the end of October.

Toward that end, Secretary of State James Baker met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa on Thursday and was to meet later with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa.

During his meeting with Baker, Moussa demanded a freeze on Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

In a meeting here Wednesday morning with American Jewish leaders, Moussa called the settlement issue "the one great obstacle to peace," according to Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said Moussa spoke in "cataclysmic terms" as to the problems that could arise if no freeze were placed on the settlements.

Jewish leaders who attended the meeting said they were united in their demand that the settlement issue not be set as a precondition to peace.

Evelyn Sommer, chairman of the American Section of the World Jewish Congress and president of the Women's International Zionist Organization, said that despite the core disagreement regarding settlements, Moussa said he felt strongly that a chance for peace exists and that negotiations should continue.

**Frank And Open Discussion**

Those interviewed said the meeting was a friendly one in which there were frank and open discussions between Moussa and the Jewish delegation, but that there was no real progress in the key issues that have divided them.

"There was disagreement as to how much the Egyptians were, in fact, doing to bring their fellow Arab neighbors around to accepting some of the realities of peace," Foxman said.

Baker's meetings Thursday with the Egyptian and Syrian foreign ministers followed on the heels of his meetings Wednesday with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Abdallah Nsour, Jordan's foreign minister.

Levy and Baker devoted most of their 90-minute meeting to the particulars surrounding the upcoming peace conference. Both sides characterized the meeting as positive and substantive, indicating that progress was made in the move to get the conference under way.

"I am pleased that we have had a very serious and good conversation between us in order to advance the peace process in the area," Levy said after the meeting.

Similarly, Baker noted that he and Levy had discussed "the importance of moving forward with the peace process," emphasizing the need for direct negotiations between the Israelis and Arabs.

At the meeting, Levy stressed Israel's insistence on assurances from the United States that there be no surprises in terms of the Palestinian participants in the peace conference. Levy said Baker understood Israel's terms and assured him that there would be no such surprises.

**BUSH FAILS TO GET MOROCCAN KING  
TO BACK MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- President Bush tried but failed Thursday to win support for a Middle East peace conference from King Hassan II of Morocco.

During nearly two hours of talks at the White House, Bush told the North African monarch that he was confident Israel would attend the conference, planned for late October. But that did not seem to change the king's mind.

Frederick Vreeland, a deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, told reporters Hassan explained that he was in the United States as the representative of the five Maghreb states: Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Tunisia and Morocco.

In that capacity, Hassan will go to New York to examine with the "countries most concerned" with the peace process what is the "proper role" for the Maghreb countries, Vreeland said.

Before the White House meeting, administration officials said Bush would seek Hassan's public support for the peace conference.

The king has played a role for decades as an intermediary between the Arab states and Israel, with whose leaders he has met in secret numerous times.

There was no indication whether he would meet with Israeli officials in New York.

Vreeland would not say that Bush was disappointed with the king's attitude. He said the president now understood why the monarch could not take such a position.

**'Not As Pessimistic As You'**

The deputy assistant secretary said that at one point in the discussion, the king said his personal view was that "the Israelis were going to represent a difficulty in the peace process."

"I am not as pessimistic as you are," Bush reportedly replied.

"There are problems with Israel, with Syria, and with other countries, the Palestinians," Bush added. "But we will press on. We are determined to press on."

Vreeland said the president then defined the proposed conference as the "last best chance" for peace in the region.

During the welcoming ceremony for Hassan, Bush reiterated that the peace process "aims at a comprehensive peace, based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of territory for peace."

He said this principle should be expanded "to provide for real security and real peace for all the states of the Middle East, including Israel, and for the recognition of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people."

Hassan was less specific in his remarks, saying Morocco will "be ready to contribute to any peaceful solution liable to give each one his due and bring about a just and lasting peace in this area."

"We will constantly be on your side, mobilized in order to seek this peace in the Middle East," he said.

**ISRAELI RIGHT URGES LEGAL ACTION  
AGAINST 2 WHO ATTENDED PNC MEETING**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- Enraged right-wing politicians demanded Thursday that the Israeli government take swift legal action against two Palestinian leaders who attended the Palestine National Council's meeting in Algiers this week.

"They are spitting in our face," said Eliahu Ben-Elissar of Likud, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

He was referring to Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi, who defied the Israeli government's refusal to allow Palestinians to attend the meeting of their so-called parliament-in-exile.

For the government to ignore their provocation could lead to more far-reaching and significant concessions, Ben-Elissar warned.

Israeli law forbids contacts with terrorist organizations, in which category it places the PNC's constituents, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said the government made a big "mistake" by allowing the two Palestinian leaders to have contacts with the PLO.

Israel has prosecuted Jewish citizens for such violations. But political observers believe Husseini and Ashrawi could escape trial.

As ostensible representatives of Palestinians living under Israeli administration, they went to the PNC meeting to try to convince the Palestinian leadership to agree to the regional peace conference the United States and Soviet Union hope to convene next month.

The two have met several times with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to discuss Palestinian participation in the peace conference and the direct talks that would follow.

**Tehiya Could Quit Government**

Reports from Algiers Thursday indicated the two emissaries had a degree of success after outlining Washington's assurances and ideas at a closed-door meeting with PLO leader Yasir Arafat.

One report said the explication of the U.S. position even changed the minds of some Palestinian hard-liners, who prefer armed struggle to diplomacy.

The PNC was expected to vote on the issue late Thursday.

Although government officials here said Husseini and Ashrawi would be subjected to the due process of law, they may in fact escape its full weight owing to their extensive contacts with Secretary Baker. They were expected to meet with him again in Washington before returning to Jerusalem.

But their status with the Americans does not impress the Israeli right. Science and Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya said he would bring up their case at Sunday's Cabinet meeting.

Tehiya is opposed to Israeli participation in peace talks with the Palestinians. A growing body of opinion within the party favors its secession from the Likud-led coalition if that occurs.

Tehiya's defection presumably would be followed by that of the Tsomet and Moledet factions, depriving Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government of seven Knesset votes.

Faced with trying to govern with a paper-thin margin, Shamir might well dissolve the Knesset and call for early elections. That would put the peace conference in limbo for months.

**ISRAELI MAN FATALLY STABBED BY ARABS;  
FIVE OTHERS STABBED BY DERANGED JEW**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- A 67-year-old Israeli was fatally stabbed by Arab assailants Thursday near Moshav Kadima, in the Sharon coastal plain. Police called it a politically motivated attack.

The body of Shlomo Yeshayahu, an employee of the moshav, was found near the irrigation pool, on the outskirts of the farm settlement, with his throat slashed.

Documents of the Islamic extremist Hamas organization were found nearby.

Police believe the crime was part of an effort by Palestinian radicals and religious fundamentalists to sabotage the regional peace conference the United States and Soviet Union hope to convene next month.

They believe there was more than one killer and that they came to the moshav from the northern region of the West Bank. Inspector Assaf Hafetz, commander of the Central Area Police Division, warned the public to expect an escalation of attempted assaults by elements opposed to peace talks, even if Palestinian participation in the conference is sanctioned by Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat.

A stabbing spree of a different kind occurred Wednesday in Tel Aviv, where a former mental patient inflicted light wounds on five passersby in the center of the city before being subdued and held for the police.

Two of the injured were hospitalized. The others were given first aid and sent home.

The assailant was described as a 54-year-old resident of Hadera. He was released from a mental hospital in May after psychiatrists decided he needed no further treatment.

According to witnesses, the man had just finished lunch at a small restaurant near the central bus station. He was paying the bill when he seized a knife and stabbed the restaurant owner in the throat. He then ran into the street, where he stabbed three passersby, one of them a recent immigrant from the Soviet Union, and fled.

He was chased by Shlomo Tal, 28, a carpet shop employee, who caught up with him at a tobacco shop and was himself stabbed. The shopowner, Ezra Bibi, knocked the man down and sat on him until the police arrived.

**PLO CLOSES OFFICE IN BOLIVIA**

NEW YORK, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization has blamed "economic difficulties" for the decision to close down its office in Bolivia after 11 years.

But the Anti-Defamation League says it is "another sign of the PLO's loss of credibility."

According to I. Barry Mehler, chairman of ADL's Latin American Affairs Committee, "the loss of PLO's credibility in Latin America and its growing irrelevance in an era that has witnessed the return of democratic governments throughout the region" are the main reasons for the move.

Mehler predicted that the PLO offices in Mexico and Peru would be next to go.

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Because of Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, the Daily News Bulletin will not be published on Tuesday, Oct. 1, or Wednesday, Oct. 2.

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## FEAR OF ANTI-SEMITISM STILL STRONG IN SOVIET UNION, DESPITE NEW CLIMATE

MOSCOW, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- Anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, including the potential for pogroms, remains a major concern of Soviet Jews, according to participants in a seminar devoted to the phenomenon held here Wednesday.

In fact, according to a survey released at the conference, more than half of 4,200 Soviet citizens interviewed would like all Jews to leave the Soviet Union. More than 10 percent said the Jews should be transferred to the Far East.

And more than half of those polled called for intensified struggle against Zionism.

The conference, attended by nearly 200 people from the Soviet Union and abroad, was organized by the Vaad, the umbrella body of Soviet Jewish organizations, and the World Conference on Soviet Jews, assisted by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, an American organization.

The seminar, held at the Shalom Theater, was a parallel activity to the international human rights conference currently being held in Moscow under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

It was chaired by Roman Spektor, a member of the Vaad presidium. Participants included representatives of non-governmental organizations attached to the CSCE.

There were five hours of presentations by specialists on anti-Semitism from the United States, Canada, Britain and the Soviet Union, and statements from the floor, mainly by Soviet Jews.

One of them, Col. Yuri Sokol, who established the first Soviet-Jewish museum in Moscow some years ago, spoke on behalf of Jews who lived in ghettos or were incarcerated in concentration camps.

Displaying samples of anti-Semitic publications in circulation, he said the upsurge of Jew-baiting "reminds us of what happened in fascist Germany" before the Holocaust.

The colonel implied that the national leaders were loathe to deal with the subject. Mikhail "Gorbachev and (Boris) Yeltsin have great difficulty in pronouncing the word 'anti-Semitism,'" he said, referring to the president of the Soviet Union and the president of the Russian republic.

### Danger Of 'Relativising' Holocaust

A paper presented by Deborah Lipstadt, a professor at Occidental College in Los Angeles and author of a book on how the Holocaust was glossed over in the media, addressed the issue of "Denying the Holocaust: From Babi Yar, 1941, to Lithuania, 1991."

"How history is written determines a society's future," said Lipstadt, a scholar of the technique of Holocaust revisionism. "Relativising" the Holocaust leads, ultimately, to its denial or at least to minimizing Jewish genocide, she said.

Lipstadt blamed the Soviet authorities for denying the fact of Jewish genocide after an initial acknowledgement of it, and journalists of the time who were reluctant to believe accounts of the Jewish experience for lack of "eyewitness" testimony.

Irwin Cotler, a law professor at McGill University in Canada, spoke of anti-Semitism as a threat to world peace. Mark Batunsky of the Soviet Union delivered a paper on Islam and anti-Semitism.

David Akselbant, a Soviet Jewish attorney

who represents Jewish activists and is the Vaad's legal adviser, spoke of the January 1990 break-in by members of the rabidly anti-Semitic Pamyat into the House of Writers, in Moscow.

He said the prosecution of the late Pamyat leader Konstantin Smirnov-Ostashvili for his part in the raid, under Article 24 of the Soviet Criminal Code, was enabled only through the pressure of "world public opinion."

Also speaking at the seminar was Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, who is in Moscow as part of the official U.S. delegation to the CSCE session.

Cardin, who is also chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, praised the CSCE, known also as the Helsinki Commission, for its past efforts to create "a common document" on human rights, including a condemnation of anti-Semitism.

"Many of our aspirations have been met, but many have yet to be achieved," she said.

Leaders of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews attended early sessions of the CSCE conference, after holding a preliminary meeting in Vilnius with other human rights groups, such as the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group; the Sakharov Congress, led by Yelena Bonner; and Memorial, a group designed to rehabilitate and document the crimes of the Holocaust.

Micah Naftalin, director of the Union of Councils, said anti-Semitism is being reported in the Soviet Union's Moslem republics, but Jews are so afraid they are reticent to admit troubles.

"We had enormous difficulty getting Jews to admit they were being threatened," he said. Ironically, he said, information on dangers to Jews in those republics was more forthcoming from Christian human rights leaders in that region.

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum in New York contributed to this report.)

## ISRAEL MONITORING IRAQI SHOWDOWN, BUT NOT GEARING UP FOR ATTACK YET By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- Israel is keeping a close watch on the showdown between Iraq and U.N. inspectors trying to track down its nuclear weapons program.

But the country does not seem to be troubled yet by the increasing instability in the Persian Gulf.

The Israel Defense Force has taken no special precautions, and the public has not been called upon for any particular action, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, the IDF chief of staff, told Israel Radio on Wednesday night.

If the United States decides on a military strike to force Saddam Hussein to comply with U.N. resolutions, Israel will be notified in advance, he said.

His implication was that renewed military action in the Persian Gulf could make Israel a target again, as it was last winter during the Persian Gulf War.

Barak said the public is not being advised at this time to check the gas masks issued to them last year. "When the time comes, we will issue the necessary instructions," he said.

Nevertheless, military commentators are suggesting that householders stock up on plastic sheeting and adhesive tape now to seal off rooms against chemical attack, in order to avoid a last-minute rush should an emergency occur.

## REMARK ABOUT JEWISH VOTING PATTERNS CAUSES BLACK-JEWISH FRICTION IN L.A.

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- An off-the-cuff remark by a leading black California politician has angered Jewish leaders here and jangled the normally harmonious relations between blacks and Jews.

Newspapers here carried an interview last Friday with Willie Brown Jr., the influential speaker of the California State Assembly, in which the black legislator suggested that the tendency of Jews to vote in a single bloc handicaps black candidates.

If black Assemblywoman Gwen Moore were to run in a heavily Jewish district, Brown said, she would have to change her name to "Moorenstein" in order to win.

At issue is the politically charged realignment of California's congressional, state Senate and state Assembly districts after the 1990 Census. The way the maps are redrawn will have a strong bearing on whether Democrats or Republicans control the state legislature for the next decade, as well as the makeup of California's 52-member congressional delegation.

Most contentious is the redistribution of Assembly seats, which is being influenced by population shifts within California, a bitter face-off between Democrat Brown and Republican Gov. Pete Wilson, and the federal Voting Rights Act, which mandates that the political interests of black, Hispanic and Asian minorities be protected.

The current plan, which calls for the enlargement of several Los Angeles Assembly districts, will adversely affect the fortunes of liberal Assemblyman Tom Hayden.

His district is to be carved into several pieces, so that many of his white, mainly non-Jewish constituents would be reassigned to adjacent districts represented by black incumbents.

### 'Inflammatory And Factually Inaccurate'

Brown was asked why the black districts were not expanded to take in slices of two other adjacent West Los Angeles districts with large Jewish populations and represented by Jews.

Because, the speaker answered, "the way in which people in that area vote, Gwen Moore would have to become Moorenstein in order to have an equal opportunity to win. If you've got to take white people, you look for white people who have shown a tendency not to vote in blocs on behalf of something they are concerned about and interested in."

He added: "You have persons who vote for Jewish last names first and foremost, just as you have blacks who vote for blacks against anybody else, regardless of advocacy, regardless of positions on issues."

Brown's remarks angered the Jewish community in Los Angeles, which has been a mainstay of the financial and voting support for the city's longtime black mayor, Tom Bradley, and which has always considered the liberal assembly speaker a friend and ally.

David Lehr, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, fired off a message to Brown criticizing his "inflammatory and factually inaccurate observations." He deplored that "in this time of increased tensions between racial and ethnic groups" Brown would "add fuel to the fires of division."

A similar message was sent by Rabbi Abra-

ham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. He pointed to the heavy Jewish support for such black mayors as David Dinkins of New York, Wilson Goode of Philadelphia and the late Harold Washington of Chicago.

Within a few hours, an apparently contrite Brown issued a statement in Sacramento, in which he said his controversial remarks were made "in a context not designed to be taken seriously."

He cited his close work with the Jewish community "over the plight of Soviet Jews, the strengthening of African-American/Jewish relations and the independence of Israel.

"I trust," he concluded, "that my history working on behalf and with the Jewish community will not be ignored as one reads my remarks."

Most Jewish communal leaders appeared ready to accept Brown's explanation. "I am satisfied with the statement," said Cooper of the Wiesenthal Center.

Michael Hirschfelder of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation Council's Community Relations Committee, said, "Although I don't think his remarks are funny, as far as I am concerned, the issue is over."

Brown, considered one of the most powerful politicians in California, has lost clout recently in state politics and in the Democratic Party, some of it to the so-called "Waxman-Berman machine," led by U.S. Reps. Henry Waxman and Howard Berman, both Democrats and Jews. According to knowledgeable observers, resentment of the bloc's power and influential role in the redistricting process may have led to Brown's outburst.

## UNREST IN ZAIRE PROMPTS EVACUATION OF ISRAELIS, OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 26 (JTA) -- About 100 Israelis have been evacuated from Zaire, where an uprising has erupted against the 26-year rule of President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Only the Israeli ambassador and the head of the Israeli military mission remain in Kinshasa, capital of the Central African nation, where rioting and looting has taken at least 30 lives since Monday.

The evacuation of Israelis accompanies that of tens of thousands of foreign nationals from Belgium, France and Portugal.

Other Israeli diplomats, Israel Defense Force advisers and businessmen, reached safety with their families in Brazzaville, in neighboring Congo, the Foreign Ministry reported Thursday.

A plane dispatched from Tel Aviv is bringing them home, the ministry said.

It said the Israelis' evacuation across the Congo River was aided by U.S. personnel and by French and Belgian troops, who were rushed to the stricken country Tuesday.

Zaire, like nearly all African nations, broke diplomatic relations with Israel after the 1973 Yom Kippur War as a gesture of solidarity with Egypt. But full ties were re-established in May 1983 and Mobutu, who received his military training in Israel, was instrumental in convincing other African leaders to follow suit.

Israel has always maintained a large military mission in Zaire and trained its elite paratroop units at Mobutu's request.

The revolt against him was triggered by some 3,000 paratroopers who, having not been paid for several months, mutinied at their base on the outskirts of Kinshasa.