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**ISRAEL AND PALESTINIANS AT ODDS
ON REPRESENTATION AT PEACE TALKS**

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- While Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir believes there is a good chance a Middle East peace conference can still be convened before the end of the month, he is stressing that Israel will not participate until the issue of Palestinian representation is solved to his satisfaction.

"The prime minister assessed the chances for the opening meeting of direct negotiations at the end of the month as very good, but there are still several problems, such as the composition of the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation," Shamir's office said in a statement Friday.

Officials close to the premier emphasized that Israel reserves the right to walk out of the conference if a Palestinian delegate is plainly seen to be taking orders from the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In Washington, meanwhile, Israeli diplomats are continuing to joust with Bush administration officials over the language of a U.S. letter of understanding that will guarantee conference terms acceptable to Israel.

The Americans are also attempting to produce a document to satisfy the Palestinians that does not conflict with promises made to Israel.

The United States and Soviet Union hope to convene the conference opening before the end of this month. It might be chaired jointly by President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. More likely, the two heads of state will issue the invitations in their names and the actual chairing will be on the foreign ministerial level.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is expected to distribute the invitations on his next visit to the region, the timing of which apparently depends on how soon Washington overcomes the remaining obstacles with the Israelis and Palestinians.

Jordanian Talks With The PLO

President Bush told a White House news conference Friday that "no dates have been set, and a lot depends on what happens in the next couple of weeks as to whether such a conference will take place" in October.

There has been a flurry of conference-related activity in Jordan, where senior PLO officials met Friday with Prime Minister Taher al-Masri and the new Jordanian foreign minister, Kamel Abu Jaber.

"They have been putting us in the picture about the PNC," the American-educated Abu Jaber, who took office last week in a Cabinet reshuffle, was quoted as saying.

He was referring to the meeting in Algiers last month of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, which approved of the peace conference in principle but awaits U.S. assurances before it sanctions delegates to attend.

Some of those technicalities may be cleared up in talks between Baker and two Palestinian leaders with whom he has conferred on each of his seven visits to Jerusalem since March: Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi.

The two returned to Israel on Sunday and

said they had been invited to meet in Washington this week with Baker, to work out the wording of the U.S. letter of assurances to the Palestinians.

During a news conference at Husseini's East Jerusalem residence, the two stressed that the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference is not up for negotiation.

"The Palestinian delegation is Palestinian business," said Husseini. "No one will interfere, no lists will be sent to anyone, and it will not be subject to a veto."

The two Palestinians refused to comment on whether they had gone to the PNC meeting in Algiers, which would violate an Israeli law barring contact with the PLO by Jews or Arabs.

Last week, the two issued an outright denial that they had gone to Algiers. But the news media last month placed them at the PNC conference and, in fact, credited them with getting it to endorse the proposed peace conference.

Israel's right wing is demanding their prompt arrest and prosecution, despite the key role that they are playing in the peace process.

No-Confidence Vote Likely To Fail

At Sunday's Cabinet meeting, Shamir formally denied media reports that he intended to "look the other way" because the Americans regard Husseini and Ashrawi as legitimate representatives of the Palestinians in the administered territories.

Shamir deftly discouraged a full-scale Cabinet debate on the peace conference, which would have given a forum to the three far-right parties in his coalition. They oppose Israel's participation and have threatened to quit the government if it agrees to attend.

But those parties -- Tehiya, Moledet and Tsomet -- are not expected to join the leftist opposition Monday in a Knesset vote of no confidence. If they did, the motion might carry, forcing Shamir to resign and call for early elections.

Some in the Labor Party, the largest opposition faction, reportedly hope the no-confidence challenge fails, because otherwise it would give Shamir an opportunity to defer the peace conference without being blamed.

Should the conference materialize this month, the United States is said to favor Switzerland as its venue.

In Geneva, Swiss sources mentioned two possible sites: Lausanne, which has already hosted Middle East peace talks, and Montreux, a summer resort about an hour's drive from Geneva. Both have luxurious hotels and large meeting halls to accommodate the diplomats.

Geneva itself, historic site of world peace and disarmament conferences, is not satisfactory to Israel, because it is where U.N. European headquarters are located. Israel distrusts the world organization and insists it have nothing whatsoever to do with Middle East peace talks.

Yuval Ne'eman, Israel's minister of science and energy, expressed the attitude of his Tehiya party Sunday, saying the conference venue ought to be Munich, a symbol of craven appeasement since 1938, when Britain and France sold out Czechoslovakia to Nazi Germany, in a vain attempt to prevent war.

(JTA correspondent Tamar Levy in Geneva contributed to this report.)

**SIZABLE PORTION OF LIKUD PANEL
WOULD TRADE TERRITORY FOR PEACE**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- A majority of Likud's Central Committee would trade territory for peace, a formula sharply at variance with official party policy, according to a secret poll taken six weeks ago.

The surprising results, published Sunday in the Israeli daily Ma'ariv, were based on a survey of 730 of the Central Committee's 3,000 members.

Presumably they are a representative sampling of the governing party's central body, which elects the leadership and is called on to approve or reject its policies.

The poll showed that 53 percent would be ready to give up parts of the Golan Heights for a peace treaty with Syria, provided the surrendered area was demilitarized; 42 percent would oppose any territorial concessions there and 4.3 percent would return all of the Golan to Syria in exchange for peace.

The poll showed that 44 percent was willing to cede parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip for peace with Jordan and the Palestinians.

Political observers pointed out that if the body of Likud opinion favoring concessions was added to similar views in the Labor and left-wing opposition parties, it would command a large majority in the Knesset.

The poll disclosed further that 48 percent of the Central Committee members questioned said they would be willing to accept a freeze on new settlements in the administered territories during a Middle East peace conference, though only 4 percent said they would accept a freeze on moving new settlers to existing settlements.

While 58 percent of the respondents opposed any form of Palestinian state, 20 percent were prepared to accept such a state in the administered territories, after a peace treaty.

Another 34 percent favored some form of confederation with Jordan.

Shamir Remains Most Popular

The poll also indicates that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir remains far and away the most popular leader. Of the Central Committee members polled, 71 percent said they would support him should he seek another term as prime minister.

Only 11 percent would support a bid by Foreign Minister David Levy, who was followed closely by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon with 10.8 percent backing.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens polled only 5 percent support if he were to stand against Shamir. But if Shamir decided not to run, Arens would be backed by 34 percent, Sharon by 27 percent, Levy by 25 percent and Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by 3 percent.

Support for other Likud figures was negligible, even with Shamir out of the race.

Moshe Nissim, the minister of industry and trade, drew 7 percent support; Binyamin Begin, son of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, 5 percent; Justice Minister Dan Meridor, 3 percent; and Netanyahu, 1 percent.

Asked to name the Likud personalities the committee members would most like to see in the next Knesset, the first 10, in descending order, were Netanyahu, Arens, Shamir, Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Levy, Begin, Police Minister Ronni Milo, Economic Planning Minister David Magen, Transport Minister Moshe Katsav and Sharon.

**ABIE NATHAN GETS 18 MONTHS
IN JAIL FOR MEETING WITH PLO**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- Abie Nathan was sentenced by a Ramla court Sunday to 18 months in prison for violating the law banning contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The 64-year-old peace activist readily admitted meeting with PLO chief Yasir Arafat in Tunis last June and said he would do it again because talking to "the enemy" is the only way to peace. He called the ban a "political and legal monstrosity."

Nathan said he would appeal his sentence, which includes an additional 18 months suspended that can be activated at any time within three years.

He vowed, nevertheless, to seek another meeting with Arafat whenever he is released.

Magistrate Avraham Tal, who pronounced sentence, noted that the 18-month prison term includes the one-year suspended sentence imposed on Nathan last year for an earlier PLO meeting.

He was also sentenced at that time to seven months in jail. He was released after four months.

Nathan, who must report to prison Thursday, announced that his unlicensed, floating radio station, the Voice of Peace, will be silent for the duration of his incarceration.

It will be the first suspension in 15 years of the peace messages, pop music and paid commercials broadcast from Nathan's ship just outside Israel's territorial waters.

**GAZA MAN GIVEN THREE LIFE SENTENCES
FOR LEADING GROUP LINKED TO MURDERS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- A Gaza military court imposed three life sentences plus 30 years Sunday on a Gaza Strip resident convicted of running a terrorist ring whose members kidnapped and murdered two Israel Defense Force soldiers in 1989.

Avi Sasportas and Ilan Sa'adon disappeared within weeks of each other. Both were last seen waiting to hitch rides home on leave from their military base near the Gaza Strip.

Sasportas' body was eventually found, but not Sa'adon's.

Mohammad Sharatha, 34, of Jabalya village pleaded guilty to all charges. He was accused of running a terrorist cell of Hamas, a Moslem fundamentalist group established in the Gaza Strip shortly after the intifada began in 1987.

He recruited and trained two killers who wore yarmulkes and drove stolen Israeli cars. They offered rides to the soldiers and, once inside the car, shot them to death.

The actual killers of Sasportas and Sa'adon crossed the border into Egypt and escaped to Libya.

Sharatha was arrested for murder. In the course of his interrogation, he revealed details of other attacks on Israeli civilians in the Gaza Strip, including shootings.

A riot erupted in the court when Sharatha declared he was proud of what he had done.

Members of the Sa'adon family tried to grab a rifle from a guard. A rifle magazine was thrown at relatives of the defendant.

Scores of police had to intervene. The Sa'adon family was ejected and prevented from re-entering the courtroom.

**ISRAEL LAUNCHES MASSIVE PROJECT
TO SETTLE JEWS IN EAST JERUSLAEM**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- The Housing Ministry, urged on by religious activists, is engaged in a major new project aimed at settling Jews in Arab-populated areas of East Jerusalem.

According to the Jerusalem weekly Kol Ha'ir, new Jewish neighborhoods will be built on land confiscated by the state when Jerusalem was reunified in 1967.

The plan has the enthusiastic support of Ateret Cohanim, a yeshiva in the Old City whose goal is Jewish population in all Jerusalem. It was drafted by Shmuel Meir, a National Religious Party leader in Jerusalem, who convinced Housing Minister Ariel Sharon to adopt it.

The plan is intended to advance demographic changes in the city by driving Jewish wedges into existing Arab neighborhoods. Previously that goal was achieved by encircling the Arab neighborhoods with massive Jewish housing projects.

The new plan is opposed by Mayor Teddy Kollek, who argues that the same end could be achieved by less provocative means. But the 80-year-old mayor has been deserted by a majority of the City Council on this issue. In any event, the Housing Ministry is authorized to approve any project of over 200 units.

The plan calls for the construction of 4,000 new housing units on four plots aggregating about 1,100 acres. The area includes 40 acres of Wadi Joz, an Arab community at the foot of the Mount of Olives.

An accelerated licensing process, speeded up to facilitate housing for new immigrants, is now advancing the East Jerusalem projects. Sharon claims it is part of a continuing process to build all over Eretz Yisrael, the biblical Land of Israel.

That encompasses the administered territories, where the issue of settlements is the subject of a tense national debate. But building in East Jerusalem is well within the national consensus.

Kollek's quarrel with Sharon is over the minister's aggressive pursuit of Jewish hegemony.

"We have settled 120,000 Jews in the formerly Jordanian part of the city without much ado," Kollek said. "Now the government jeopardizes past achievements. The exhibitionist activities of Sharon disturb me because in our quiet ways we have accomplished more."

**ULTRA-ORTHODOX PROTEST ON SABBATH
AGAINST NEW HIGHWAY TURNS VIOLENT**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- Four policemen were hospitalized for injuries sustained Saturday during a violent demonstration by ultra-Orthodox Jews protesting the use by Sabbath drivers of a new highway that runs near their neighborhoods.

Several policemen and two news cameramen were struck by rocks. One of the protesters was hospitalized, a number were hurt and several were arrested by the police.

The fracas erupted suddenly from what began as a peaceful demonstration by local residents with a police permit. Leaders of the religious community, who had promised there would be no violence, apparently lost control.

Young religious activists knocked down police barriers and hurled rocks at passing cars. No drivers were reported injured or cars damaged.

Jerusalem Police Chief Haim Albaldes said his

forces were under orders to exercise maximum restraint. But when the situation got out of hand, mounted police entered the fray using clubs.

One of the leaders of the demonstration, Yehuda Meshi-Zahav, complained that there had been no need for such measures.

The police had tear gas and water canon on hand, but neither was used. Some Arabs complained that the police had never showed such restraint dealing with Arab disturbances. But most Arab residents watched the spectacle with a mixture of astonishment and amusement.

Police Minister Ronni Milo praised the police for showing "overall restraint." He warned, however, that a repetition of the violence would be met by "aggressive" police measures.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek said the demonstrators "violated both the law and the call of their own rabbis." But he suggested they were only a minority within the religious community.

The new highway, which cuts the distance between downtown Jerusalem and the northern suburbs, opened Oct. 1 to a chorus of protests and threats by ultra-Orthodox Jews, whose neighborhoods it skirts.

Kollek pointed out that the highway does not pass through any religious neighborhood.

MOROCCAN KING RECEIVES JEWS

NEW YORK, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- King Hassan II of Morocco held court at New York's Plaza Hotel last Wednesday evening for 75 American and Canadian Jews of Moroccan origin, who came to express their affection for the ruler and their attachment to the land of their birth.

The scene was warm and sentimental, with a touch of medieval pageantry.

Hassan, flanked by his son, Prince Moulay Rashid, his three daughters and his principal ministers, was seated on a white chair bearing the royal escutcheon.

He listened attentively as Rabbi Moise Ohana, a native of Meknes who lives in Montreal, spoke in French of the bond that ties Moroccan Jews living abroad to their native land.

He was followed by Rabbi Abraham Ben-Haim, also from Meknes and now of Queens, who pronounced the traditional Hebrew blessings on being in the presence of a king.

In response, Hassan II rose from his "throne" and, speaking in Arabic, told of the many links between Jews and Moslems as "children of one flesh -- Abraham."

Pointing out the fact that Moroccan Jews may enter and leave Morocco freely, the king said: "Bring your children with you when you come, so that they may know of the Jewish sages who are buried in our land and of the many Jewish traditions that are still alive in our country."

Serge Berdugo of Casablanca, president of the Council of Jewish Communities of Morocco, introduced each of the guests to the king, who shook their hands and sometimes had a brief chat.

Interviewed on Moroccan television after the reception, Liliane Shalom, a New Yorker born in Casablanca, observed that "every Moroccan Jew carries a piece of the old country with him" wherever he lives.

"We will never forget the king's father, Mohammed V, who protected the Jews from the racist laws of Vichy and the Nazi barbarism after the fall of France," she said. "Hassan II is his father's son -- a good and just king, whom Moroccan Jews everywhere cherish and revere."

**CANADA PUSHING JUDGE TO DECIDE
ON REVOKING NAZI'S CITIZENSHIP**

By Gil Kezwer

TORONTO, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- The Justice Department here is prodding a federal court judge to rule without further delay whether to revoke the Canadian citizenship of an accused Dutch Nazi collaborator who attained it, allegedly, by lying about his past.

The denaturalization hearing of Jacob Luitjens, a retired lecturer in botany at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, ended on May 11, 1989.

Federal prosecutors said, after a conference call with Justice Frank Collier on July 26, that a decision could be expected by the first week in September.

None was forthcoming. The Toronto Star reported that the judge would rule on Oct. 2. Since then, rumors have circulated that Collier has not even begun to draft his ruling.

The long delay has frustrated war crimes prosecutors, embarrassed the legal community and angered Jews.

If Luitjens, 72, is stripped of Canadian citizenship, he would face deportation to Holland. He was tried and sentenced in absentia there in 1948 to life imprisonment for "aiding and abetting the enemy in time of war."

Luitjens escaped from a military prison in Holland in 1946, spent a year in Germany and sailed for South America in May 1948 under the name Gerhard Harder. He lived in Paraguay for 13 years before immigrating to Canada.

The government maintains that he unlawfully obtained admission to Canada for permanent residence in 1961 and citizenship 10 years later by false representation and concealment of his past.

According to Crown co-prosecutor Arnold Fradkin, Luitjens "was and continues to be a crafty liar."

Since Parliament amended the criminal code in 1987 to allow Canadian courts to try war crimes suspects for offenses committed abroad, the government has had one successful prosecution.

In 1983, Albert Helmut Rauca was extradited to what was then West Germany, to stand trial for the murder of 11,585 Jews in the ghetto of Kaunas (Kovno), Lithuania. Rauca died before his case went to trial.

**HOLOCAUST REVISIONIST FRED LEUCHTER
BARRED FROM MAKING APPEARANCE IN U.K.**
By Julian Kossoff and Anna Maxted
London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- British Home Secretary Kenneth Baker has banned Holocaust revisionist Fred Leuchter from entering the country.

The surprise move follows months of campaigning by community leaders, senior politicians and Jewish students to ban entry by Leuchter, an American who authored a pseudoscientific report that claims there were no gas chambers in the Nazi death camps.

Fears had been growing that the planned visit by Leuchter was aimed at preparing ground for the creation of a center for Holocaust revisionism in Britain.

Leuchter had been invited by right-wing revisionist historian David Irving to address at

least two public meetings, one in London and another in the Midlands area of England.

Irving is a former mainstream historian of World War II who was converted to revisionism by Leuchter and published "The Leuchter Report" in Britain.

In 1989, Irving's company, Focal Point Publications, published a British edition of "The Leuchter Report," which has since become a standard text for people who claim the Holocaust was a hoax.

Irving and his book were denounced by the House of Commons in June 1989.

Irving had invited Leuchter to Britain as an engineer specializing in the design and construction of death chambers and other execution paraphernalia.

Violated Consent Decree

In June, Leuchter made an official statement admitting he had been practicing, without a license, his self-declared specialization in methods of capital punishment.

He also agreed that he would stop issuing and distributing reports denying the existence of the gas chambers.

Leuchter had been scheduled to go on trial on June 24 in Malden, Mass., for practicing engineering without a license.

His statement, submitted to the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, was made as part of a deal with the state, which mandated that he be placed on pretrial probation for two years.

The director of the Albany, N.Y., group that instigated court proceedings against Leuchter says the revisionist has already violated his consent agreement by agreeing to continue distributing his report.

"They are offering his report in this conference for 5 pounds each," said Shelly Shapiro, director of Holocaust Survivors and Friends in Pursuit of Justice.

Shapiro said she was called by the Canadian Attorney General's Office with information that Canadian Holocaust revisionist Ernst Zundel has applied to resume his publishing business, starting with "The Leuchter Report."

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

RAISING SHEKELS FOR THE PHILHARMONIC
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 6 (JTA) -- The deficit-ridden Israel Philharmonic Orchestra tried a new way to raise money Saturday night and apparently succeeded with its experiment.

The 100-plus members split into more than 20 chamber groups -- trios to quintets -- which performed at fund-raisers all over the country.

Under the rubric "The IPO Holds Open House," they performed in towns, villages and kibbutzim, and in the homes of individuals lined up by the orchestra's management.

One host was Housing Minister Ariel Sharon and his wife, Lilly. After listening to a Brahms quartet at the Sharons' Negev ranch, the 250 invited guests and 150 gate-crashers donated over \$100,000 to the IPO.

Although Sharon saw to it that his dogs were tied up and his horses corralled for the concert, he couldn't control the Negev wind, which caused the musicians endless problems with their music sheets.