

**BAKER AND SOVIET COUNTERPART
WILL MEET THIS WEEK IN ISRAEL****By David Landau**

JERUSALEM, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin will meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Jerusalem at the end of this week, presumably to wrap up plans for the Middle East peace conference the United States and the Soviet Union hope to convene before the end of the month, it was announced here Monday.

Pankin is expected to use the occasion to announce the restoration of full diplomatic relations with Israel, broken by Moscow during the 1967 Six-Day War.

That long-pending move has been one of Israel's major conditions for agreeing to participate in peace talks under joint U.S.-Soviet auspices.

The prospect of a foreign minister-level summit conference in Israel's capital, probably this Friday, coupled with the renewal of diplomatic ties with the Soviets after 24 years, normally would have been greeted with elation in government circles.

The government also had cause for celebration after a Knesset no-confidence motion criticizing its handling of the peace process was handily defeated Monday.

But the mood in government circles is less than joyous. Ministers and officials who are committed to a peace conference in principle are talking increasingly of a sense of U.S. pressure over the preparations.

They see Pankin's planned visit here as an effort to tighten the screws on Israel to agree to compromises before the conference opens.

Baker arrived in Cairo on Sunday to start his eighth peace mission to the region since last March. He met with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amre Moussa before leaving Monday for Amman, Jordan. He will be in Damascus Tuesday and is expected here on Wednesday.

Talks On U.S. Assurances Continue

There was speculation that Baker and Pankin might use the occasion of their meeting to issue invitations to the conference. But that is not considered likely until the two powers are certain all of the invitees will accept.

There is considerable groundwork still to be done with Israel and with the Palestinians, not to mention an increasingly recalcitrant Syria.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office is engaged, through Ambassador Zalman Shoval in Washington, in hard bargaining with the Bush administration over drafts of a U.S. letter of assurances to Israel.

It is but one of several such letters Washington has promised all of the conference participants to assure them that their basic interests will not be compromised. The big problem is that conflicting promises seem to have been made to opposing parties.

Israeli sources say there has been "some improvement" in the administration's drafts. But certain clauses are still unsatisfactory, especially those concerning the Palestinians' role at the conference opening and in subsequent direct negotiations.

After Baker's two days of discussions with Palestinian representatives in Washington last week, U.S. officials said they were "reasonably assured" that the Palestinians would begin formal discussions with Jordan shortly to form a joint delegation to represent them at the peace talks.

Palestinian activist Faisal Hussein said last week that the United States and the Palestinians had not yet resolved differences that would satisfy Palestinian participation in a joint delegation with Jordan.

Husseini spoke after meeting with Baker at the State Department last Thursday along with fellow Palestinian activists Hanan Ashrawi, Zakaria al-Agha and Sari Nusseibeh.

Baker told reporters before the meeting that the composition of the Palestinian delegation is "the major issue that remains to be resolved." The other parties have "pretty much said that they would attend" the conference, he added.

He repeated his assertion that the Palestinians have the most to gain if a peace process unfolds, or the most to lose if it falters.

Dissent Within Tehiya Party

Washington has assured Israel that the Palestinians from the administered territories will be part of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and that they will be "visibly" not members of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Israel was also promised that the Palestinian representatives will be unconnected with East Jerusalem, which Israel regards as sovereign territory, outside the scope of the negotiations.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy continues to exude optimism somewhat out of character with that of the general mood in his government and party.

In public comments here Monday, Levy played down differences with the Americans, predicted that Baker's visit would resolve them and maintained that Israel is going ahead with "what is, after all, our initiative" in a mood of self-confidence.

The defeat of the no-confidence motions by a vote of 55-46 showed that the government is firmly in control of its coalition.

The far-right Tehiya party did not defect, as its three-member Knesset faction had been threatening to do unless the government renounced the peace conference.

Tehiya's Knesset members were held in line by party leader Yuval Ne'eman, a professor of physics who is minister of science and energy.

Ne'eman, who does not sit in the Knesset, agrees that the peace conference is a trap for Israel set by Washington to impose a "Pax Americana" on the Middle East. But he seemed confident that it would not, in the end, materialize.

He exhorted his faction therefore to sit tight, explaining that there would be time enough to quit the government if Israel actually sat down at the peace table with the Palestinians or if territorial issues are discussed.

The two other far-right parties, Moledet and Tsomet, also voted with the coalition. The leaders of both, like Ne'eman, hold Cabinet posts, which they are not eager to give up.

(JTA correspondent Howard Rosenberg in Washington contributed to this report.)

E.C. WELCOMES PNC ACTION, URGES END TO SETTLEMENTS

By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- As U.S. Secretary of State James Baker departed for his eighth trip to the Middle East, the European Community released a statement expressing its full support for America's efforts to set up a Middle East peace conference before the end of this month.

The E.C. also welcomed the "positive attitude" taken recently by the Palestine National Council, which, at its recent meeting in Algiers, agreed to Palestinian participation in the conference.

The statement, which was issued by Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, current chairman of the E.C. Council of Ministers, also urged Israel to desist from building settlements in the West Bank.

The E.C. called for confidence-building measures by both sides but seemed to put the burden mainly on Israel.

The statement said the 12 E.C. member states "underline the importance they attach to a suspension of Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem."

It welcomed "the willingness of the Arab states to freeze the trade boycott of Israel in return for this."

The E.C. expressed hope that the "emerging consensus will open the way to an early resolution of the problem of an authentic Palestinian representation."

"The Community and its member states do not believe that any formula on this issue can be held to prejudice negotiations on substantive issues such as the status of Jerusalem," the E.C. said.

Israel has specifically ruled out negotiations on Jerusalem, which it considers its sovereign territory. For that reason, it refuses to meet with a Palestinian delegation that includes any resident of East Jerusalem.

The E.C. statement indicated a fundamentally opposite view that regards East Jerusalem as "occupied territory."

Repeal Of Zionism Resolution Urged

In fact, the only substantive part of the E.C. statement likely to elicit Israel's agreement was its call for repeal of the 1975 U.N. General Assembly resolution denigrating Zionism as a form of racism.

The E.C. reaffirmed its strong disapproval of that resolution, "which should be consigned to oblivion," the statement said.

It also reaffirmed its determination "to give all possible support to efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference" and "to play an active role as full participant in such a conference alongside the co-sponsors," the United States and Soviet Union.

In addition, the E.C. may consider a wide-ranging program for economic development on a regional scale in the Middle East.

Such a proposal was made by the Italian foreign minister, Gianni de Michelis, at an Oct. 9 meeting in Barcelona, Spain.

De Michelis said the E.C. ministers are ready and willing to create new mechanisms for economic cooperation with Arabs and Israelis and suggested that the countries in the region may be given the status of associate members of the European Community, as a practical measure.

POLICE SEARCH FOR A JEWISH GANG WHO STOLE VAN USED BY ARAB KILLER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- A Jewish criminal gang may have assisted the West Bank Palestinian who deliberately drove into a crowd of Israeli soldiers Friday, killing two of them and injuring 11.

Police are searching for the gang they believe stole the van used by the terrorist to plough into the crowd.

The suspect, Rateb Abdallah Zaidan, 25, of the West Bank village of Kibya, is in custody.

The fatally injured men were buried Sunday with full military honors. Regimental Sgt. Maj. Aharon Kalzoni-Agmon, 36, of Givatayim, was interred at the Givat Shaul cemetery in Tel Aviv.

Sgt. Shmuel Michaeli, 21, of Bnei Brak was buried in the military section of Holon cemetery.

Eight other soldiers remained hospitalized Monday, two in serious condition.

The incident occurred at a hitchhikers' shelter on the Geha Road outside Tel Aviv, where soldiers wait to pick up rides. About 15 were standing in line when a van belonging to the Bezek Telecommunications Co. ran a red light and was driven into their midst at high speed.

The van demolished the shelter and overturned. The slightly injured driver crawled out of a window and tried to escape. He was chased and overpowered by witnesses, who turned him over to a senior police officer who was driving by.

The suspect's home in Kibya was sealed off by security forces Monday.

Zaidan reportedly left a suicide note under his mattress Friday saying he planned to "take revenge on the Jews for my relatives killed in the intifada and on the Temple Mount."

According to police investigators, none of his relatives has been killed, either in the intifada or the Temple Mount riots on Oct. 8, 1990.

Police said the suspect's wife tried to destroy the note when they came to question her.

INVESTIGATOR ASKS DISCIPLINE FOR OFFICERS IN NABLUS ATTACK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force investigator recommended Monday that disciplinary charges be filed against two senior officers who failed to restrain a pair of Israeli civilian security guards on a destructive rampage through downtown Nablus last Friday.

The incident, filmed by Visnews television, created another angry confrontation between left- and right-wing members of the Knesset.

The guards, reacting to a stone-throwing attack, were shown overturning vegetable stands, smashing car headlights and threatening passersby at gunpoint in the West Bank Arab town.

According to Knesset members Yossi Sarid and Dedi Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement, a lieutenant colonel in charge of the Nablus region witnessed the incident and did not "lift a finger" to stop it.

But Likud Knesset member Uzi Landau called their charges a "witch hunt." He said the security forces should be punishing Arab hooligans, not Jewish civil guards.

The investigating officer confirmed that when the security forces ordered the civilians to desist, the soldiers themselves were threatened with firearms.

SPANISH LEADER CANCELS PLANS TO VISIT ISRAEL ON MIDEAST TOUR

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Marquez of Spain apparently has canceled plans to visit Israel this fall, officials in Madrid confirmed over the weekend.

He acted contrary to the advice of his foreign minister, Francisco Fernandez Ordenez, sources there said.

The unexpected change of plans is the first serious break in the smooth pace at which Spain's relations with Israel have progressed since Madrid established full diplomatic ties with the Jewish state early in 1986.

The visit was officially announced in Madrid and in Jerusalem when Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy visited Spain in July.

But Gonzalez's heavy schedule, combined with unease over political developments in the Middle East, made it inappropriate at this time, Spanish officials said.

Although Fernandez urged him to stick to his original plans, the prime minister was advised by experts that a trip to Israel now would be harmful to Spain's relations with the Arab states.

That was because Israel is seen here to be dragging its feet on the Middle East peace conference the United States and Soviet Union hope to convene by Oct. 31.

Fernandez himself flew to the Middle East last Friday, on behalf of the European Community, to try to shore up flagging Arab enthusiasm for the conference.

His itinerary includes Jordan, Syria and Iraq, but not Israel. Diplomatic sources said he would try to persuade the Syrians to attend the regional phase of the planned peace conference.

Damascus reportedly advised the United States last week that it has decided not to attend the parallel multinational talks with Israel on such regional problems as water resources, economic development and security issues.

King's Visit Now In Doubt

Those talks were intended to take place while Israel was engaged in direct bilateral peace negotiations with individual Arab states and the Palestinians.

American and European diplomats fear that if the Syrians demur on that phase, Israel might refuse to attend the conference entirely.

Fernandez is also expected to stress to the Arabs that the E.C. countries would be ready to back up any progress toward peace with massive economic assistance to the entire region.

Meanwhile, although Gonzalez's trip to Israel could be rescheduled, its cancellation for the time being almost certainly means that King Juan Carlos will not make a state visit to Israel next year.

Spain had intimated to Israel when Levy was here that the king would visit Jerusalem at the end of March 1992. The royal visit was to be symbolic of Spain's reconciliation with the Jews 500 years after it expelled them.

Last week in New York, accepting an award for tolerance from the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, the Spanish monarch failed to mention Jews at all, in his address to an audience that included opera stars, royalty and Jewish leaders who had come from Madrid and Barcelona especially for the occasion.

Another symbol that seems to have gone

sour is the projected Israeli pavilion at Expo '92, the international exposition to be held in Seville next year to mark the 500th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage of discovery.

The Israelis delayed starting its construction for financial reasons. Now legal and practical problems have arisen which make Israel's participation in Expo '92 all but impossible.

The Israelis have not met several deadlines for presenting their plans and completing major construction work on the exposition grounds.

Another snag is the lawsuit brought against the Israeli government by the architect hired to design the pavilion, for dropping his plans when it seemed that he might have received preferential treatment.

HERZOG'S VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS FIRST BY ISRAELI HEAD OF STATE

By Josef Klansky

PRAGUE, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- The visit here by Israel's president, Chaim Herzog, is clearly a celebration of the friendship and good will restored between Czechoslovakia and the Jewish state since the collapse of Communist rule.

In the first visit by an Israeli head of state, Herzog arrived Sunday evening with no government ministers in his entourage. Nor is he expected to sign documents concerned with relations between the two countries.

He will, however, participate in Holocaust memorial events, which have been scheduled in the Czech and Slovak republics during his week-long stay.

His host, Vaclav Havel, visited Israel last year. Herzog returned that visit by paying an official call Monday morning on the Czechoslovak president.

The Israeli chief of state was introduced to the public on a special television program upon his arrival. It depicted the Irish-born Herzog as a World War II soldier, a former Israeli general, a diplomat, writer, journalist and politician.

In a television interview, Herzog recalled the importance of the arms deliveries and military training the Israelis were given by Czechoslovakia in their war for independence in 1948.

He spoke frankly of the former Communist regime's hostility toward Israel after the 1967 war and of the renewal of diplomatic ties following the restoration of democracy in Prague in 1989.

Herzog also spoke of Israel's unwillingness to rely for security solely on promises and declarations of good will from abroad.

The Israeli president will participate in the unveiling of a memorial tablet in Prague on Wednesday on the 50th anniversary of the first deportation of Jews from the Nazi-occupied capital.

The destination of the first four transports was the Lodz ghetto in occupied Poland. But after Nov. 24, 1941, most deportees from Bohemia and Moravia were sent to the Terezin concentration camp.

Herzog met Monday with the federal prime minister, Marian Calfa; the premier of the Czech republic, Petr Pithart; and the chairwoman of the Czech Parliament, Dagmar Buresova.

His agenda includes a meeting with Alexander Dubcek, chairman of the National Assembly, who as Czechoslovak leader in 1968 defied the Soviets and prompted the harsh Soviet invasion. Herzog will also visit the Slovak republic capital of Bratislava.

TWO MONTHS AFTER CROWN HEIGHTS RIOTS, THOUSANDS RALLY AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- Fifty-five days after Yankel Rosenbaum was murdered in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn by a crowd of angry blacks, leaders from the Jewish, black, Hispanic and Asian community stood together to condemn the recent surge in anti-Semitic incidents in New York and around the world.

They addressed thousands of people, nearly all of them Jews, who turned out under sunny autumn skies Sunday to publicly register their concern about the anti-Semitic violence and rhetoric which has been experienced over the past two months by Jews around the world, from New York to Warsaw.

"We are here to recognize and to be assured that we are not alone," declared Kenneth Bialkin, president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, which organized the rally.

"We stand here with leaders from other communities. They have been with us in our times of need in the past; they stand with us today," Bialkin said. "We are united in our abhorrence of anti-Semitism and all other forms of racism and prejudice.

"In a sense, the world has become so used to the presence of anti-Semitism that our reactions have become almost passive," he said. "That tolerance must end, and end now!"

Charles Wang, president of the China Institute and a vice chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, pledged to "work with you to be sure anti-Semitism is wiped out from our city and every corner of our country."

Christopher Jung, a spokesperson for the Korean Association of New York, said, "We must make sure that a few hate-mongers have no place in our society."

And Dennis Walcott, president of the New York Urban League, who had most of his brief remarks drowned out by a half-dozen shouting members of a militant group called Kahane Chai, noted that "racism and anti-Semitism are permeating our city."

JCRC Staffer Punched In Face

The Kahane Chai protesters, standing directly in front of the dais, interrupted nearly every speaker with shouts accusing them of "ignoring Crown Heights" and being "false leaders doing nothing against anti-Semitism."

Kahane Chai is an outgrowth of Kach, the movement founded and headed by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was assassinated in New York last November.

The group's demonstration within the demonstration turned violent at one point, with scuffles breaking out between the Kahane Chai members and other rally participants who began yelling back at them to be quiet.

When David Pollack, assistant executive director of the JCRC, made his way through the crowd to tell the Kahane Chai demonstrators to stop disrupting the speakers or leave, one punched him in the face, he said.

Luis Miranda, president of New York's Hispanic Federation, admonished the Kahane Chai protesters, saying, "I am very disappointed. We've admired your ability to act as a group in the past where there's a common enemy," he said. "Today you must do that as well."

Some in the crowd of demonstrators won-

dered why Mayor David Dinkins was not on the dais. Organizers said the mayor had a scheduling conflict and that he did send a representative.

"Dinkins is conspicuously absent," said a rally participant named Beverly, who refused to give her last name. She said she was displeased that the demonstrators were nearly all Jews. The crowd "doesn't have the rainbow coalition that the civil rights marches did," she observed.

David Zelmanovic, who attended the rally with 50 neighbors from Monsey, N.Y., said that "the turnout was disappointing, considering that anti-Semitism affects every Jew everywhere. I was disappointed, but not surprised, not to see non-Jews there."

Michael Miller, executive director of the JCRC, said he was pleased with the turnout at the rally, which police estimated at 5,000, but organizers put at between 10,000 and 12,000.

But "should there be additional outbreaks, or should the anti-Semitism even persist, we will mount an even larger demonstration," he vowed.

Other speakers at the rally included Rabbi Shmuel Butman, president of the Lubavitch Youth Organization; Lenny Sensenowitz, president of City College Students for Israel; and former New York Mayor Ed Koch, who got more applause than anyone else.

The rally began at Union Square, the site of a 1933 rally by the Workmen's Circle and various trade unions to protest the rise of Nazism in Germany.

Demonstrators walked several blocks to Madison Square Park, near the state Appellate Division Courthouse, in front of which is a monument to the Holocaust.

EL AL, AEROFLOT INK ACCORD
TO FLY IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 14 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency for Israel has signed an agreement in Moscow with the Soviet state airline, Aeroflot, to fly emigres directly to Israel, in conjunction with El Al.

The signatories were Zvi Barak, head of the agency's Finance Department, and Vladimir Tichonov, director general of Aeroflot.

Tichonov told Barak that Aeroflot would now negotiate directly with El Al, the Israeli national airline, to implement the service, which will be operated by an Aeroflot-El Al subsidiary, Transair.

The accord signed in Moscow follows an announcement made in New York last week by El Al President Rafi Harlev that the Soviet Foreign Ministry had ended any objections to direct flights for immigrants to Israel.

Harlev, just back from Moscow, thought flights could be put in place from Moscow or another appropriate Soviet or Balkan city. Latvia also gave a thumbs-up response for immigrant flights to commence from Riga, Harlev said.

The accord culminated two years of negotiations, during which emigres had to travel to Eastern European capitals to get flights to Tel Aviv.

It was bad news for Israeli businessman Ya'acov Nimrodi, who had hoped the Jewish Agency would sign a contract with his newly established airline, Aerolicht, to provide direct service for immigrants from Soviet cities.

Using planes chartered from Aeroflot, Nimrodi had hoped to provide daily direct flights from several Soviet cities carrying as many as 300,000 olim over the next two years.