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ISRAELI TEAM ARRIVES IN MADRID GRUMBLING ABOUT BETRAYAL BY U.S.

By Michel Di Paz

MADRID, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Before the Middle East peace conference could even begin here, the Israeli delegation was grumbling that it had been misled and betrayed by the United States.

Their anger was aroused by the announcement that the head of the Palestinian negotiating team, Haider Abdel-Shafi of the Gaza Strip, would be given 45 minutes for his opening address, the same amount of time allotted to the representatives of Jordan, Israel and other sovereign states.

To the Israelis, that was a violation of an American promise that the 14 Palestinian representatives would be treated as part of the Jordanian delegation, not a separate entity.

Before leaving for Spain on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir branded the Palestinian team "false emissaries."

The prime minister, who is heading the Israeli delegation, made clear at a meeting here Tuesday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that Israel would not accept any more "surprises."

Shamir also went to see Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is co-hosting the conference with President Bush. At a joint news conference Tuesday, the two superpower leaders urged all sides to be constructive in the quest for a peace settlement.

But before the peace talks could begin, there was already a definite feeling among the Israelis that the United States had departed from its role as "honest broker" and was tilting toward the Arabs.

'Quest For Peace Is Unrelenting'

Shamir insisted nevertheless that Israel would not be deflected from its pursuit of peace.

"We hope that here in Madrid will begin a process to realize our greatest aspiration," he told reporters on his arrival.

"We do not wish to wait any longer for peace, and truly plead, as if our counterparts have come here in the same spirit, our years of waiting will come to an end," he said.

Shamir stifled speculation that Israel might abandon the conference because of the terrorist ambush of a bus in the West Bank on Monday, in which two Jewish settlers were killed and five wounded.

"Some might have expected that in the face of this terror, Israel would not attend the conference. But despite this violence, our quest for peace is unrelenting," he declared.

In contrast, his remarks at Ben-Gurion Airport before leaving for Spain bristled with contempt for the Palestinians, including those his delegation will be called on to negotiate with.

Referring to the bus ambush, Shamir said, "All of the Jewish people and the entire world heard what happened yesterday and understood the true meaning of the bearers of olive branches for the Palestinian murderers."

"Israel, which is going to work to achieve peace, will know how to use all its force to hit the terrorist murderers and their dispatchers," he warned.

Asked what he would do if the Palestinians at Madrid turned out to be a separate delegation, Shamir said, "All of them are false emissaries resulting from a tendency to cultivate a negative element in the region."

But, he added, "it will not affect our position or our status."

In contrast to the Syrian and other Arab delegations who shied away from the news media here, at least one member of the Israeli delegation sought out reporters.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, a Likud Knesset member, stressed that Shamir did not come to Madrid to swap territories for peace.

Shamir Rejects Preconditions

Shamir was explicit on the equally delicate issue of freezing Jewish settlement activity in the administered territories while the peace talks are under way.

Asked before leaving Tel Aviv what Israel would do if the Palestinians offered to end the intifada in exchange for a settlement freeze, Shamir replied: "No one suggested that to us, because they probably already know what our position will be: Our response would be negative."

Asked if Israel would make any kind of conciliatory gesture in Madrid, the prime minister responded: "I cannot say in advance what we will do or say how we will respond to each request directed at us.

"I can only say that we will not accept any preconditions," he added.

The delegates will sit at a T-shaped table; Israel, between Egypt and Lebanon, will face the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The United States and Soviet Union will sit at the top of the T on both sides of the podium.

Security is tight, with nothing left to chance. Madrid's 12,000-strong police force has been beefed up by the Civil Guard. Armed police were visible Tuesday all over the capital, but concentrated at the most sensitive locations.

THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED, SIX WOUNDED IN SEPARATE ATTACKS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Three Israeli soldiers were killed and six wounded Tuesday in two separate incidents in southern Lebanon.

Both involved Islamic extremist groups pledged to wreck this week's Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Israel retaliated Tuesday evening with air strikes and artillery attacks.

The attacks on the soldiers followed a deadly assault Monday in the West Bank on a convoy of settlers. Two adults were killed and five children were injured in that attack.

Tuesday's fatalities occurred shortly before noon, when a remote-control land mine blew up an Israel Defense Force vehicle near Arnabta, in the eastern sector of the southern Lebanon security zone. One soldier was wounded.

The military censor withheld the news for several hours, pending notification of next of kin.

Another incident occurred before dawn Tuesday when an IDF patrol clashed with armed terrorists trying to infiltrate Israel from north of

the security zone. Five soldiers were wounded in the ensuing battle and chase.

Two terrorists were killed and one was wounded and captured, an IDF spokesman said.

The spokesman said the patrol was hit by two LAW missiles and a grenade. The wounded were evacuated to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

The terrorists belonged to the Fatkhi Shakaki branch of Islamic Jihad, according to a notice published in Lebanon. It said their mission was to attack Moshav Zar'it, which abuts the Lebanon border.

Apparently, Islamic Jihad is operating in coordination with the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, which claimed credit for the midday land mine explosion.

Attacking Israeli air force jets destroyed a Hezbollah headquarters building in the Nabatiya refugee camp in southern Lebanon on Tuesday evening.

Sources of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon reported that IDF gunners shelled Tibnot village in Lebanon, north of the security zone, during the night, and Kabrikha village was shelled Tuesday morning.

AT PLACE WHERE TWO SETTLERS DIED, CALL IS MADE FOR MORE SETTLEMENTS
By Gil Sedan

SHILOH, West Bank, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- The road winding through the Samarian hills near Nablus was deserted Tuesday as Jewish settlers prepared for two funerals, Arab villages remained under tight curfew and Israel Defense Force soldiers routinely uprooted olive trees on a hill overlooking the road.

The trees had given concealment to Arabs who opened fire Monday night on a three-bus convoy carrying settlers to a rally in Tel Aviv.

Killed in the ambush were Rachel Druk, 35, of Shiloh, a mother of seven, and Yitzhak Rofe, 40, from Jerusalem, who was driving the third bus.

Responsibility for the murderous attack was claimed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of several radical Arab groups pledged to violence in the hope of sabotaging this week's Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

The bus was hit at a bend in the road between the Arab hamlets of Kabalan and Yatma.

The gunmen, lying prone among the olive trees, allowed the first two buses to pass and fired at the third. Apparently fearing armed guards, they fled after their first volley.

Had they continued to shoot at the unprotected bus, the casualties could have been far worse.

Contrary to usual practice, the settlers were unarmed. Their weapons had been submitted the same day for routine inspection. But the use of firearms by Palestinian nationalists is an ominous escalation of the intifada, where until recently the weapons were stones and gasoline bombs.

The IDF anticipated that development as the peace conference date approached. But the IDF chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, said Tuesday that he saw no reason yet for the army to change its tactics in the administered territories.

Meanwhile, soldiers have been posted on the hill where the attackers had waited for the buses. About 20 women from nearby settlements rigged tents nearby, hoping the government would authorize a new settlement on the site.

They are convinced that pouring more Jewish settlers into the territories will solve their problems, not the peace conference in Spain.

In New York, meanwhile, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations condemned Monday's "dastardly and cowardly act of terror," which it said underscores Israel's security concerns going into the peace conference.

"It is our fervent hope that the peace talks will put an end to these wanton killings," the conference said in a statement. "We await the denunciation of this vicious attack by all the delegates in Madrid."

Shoshana Cardin, the conference chairman, planned to arrive in Madrid on Wednesday as part of an international delegation of Jewish leaders that was to include representatives of the Jewish communities in France, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom.

2 RALLIES IN TEL AVIV HIGHLIGHT ISRAELI DIVIDE OVER PEACE TALKS
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Two mass rallies in Tel Aviv, held 36 hours apart but both directly related to this week's Middle East peace conference in Madrid, presented stark evidence of the dichotomy in Israeli society.

The demonstration Saturday night at the Malchei Yisrael Square outside City Hall was organized by Peace Now and leftist Knesset factions to urge the Israeli delegation in Madrid to make concessions for peace.

On Monday night, a right-wing nationalist rally was held at the same locale, under the slogan of "Peace for Peace." It was intended to stiffen Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's resolve to make no concessions.

Commentators noted differences between the two demonstrations more fundamental than the predictable tone and content of the speeches.

Speakers at the right-wing rally included coalition Cabinet ministers and spokesmen for West Bank settlement movements. The Saturday night gathering was addressed by opposition Knesset members, kibbutz leaders, intellectuals and leading figures in the arts.

At the Peace Now rally, there was a sea of banners announcing that "Israel Wants Peace" and only a sprinkling of Israeli flags. Very few men at that rally wore kipot (skullcaps), indicating a minimal Orthodox presence.

Those attending the nationalist rally were predominately kipot-wearing men waving a sea of oversized Israeli flags.

Virtually no weapons were seen at the Peace Now rally. At the right-wing rally, firearms were the rule, not only revolvers strapped to waists but light machine guns slung over shoulders.

Crowd estimates at the right-wing demonstration ranged between 50,000 to 80,000, notably larger than the 30,000 to 35,000 estimated by police to have attended the Peace Now rally.

But the higher turnout Monday night was attributed at least in part to the terrorist bus ambush in the West Bank only hours before, which killed two Jewish settlers and wounded five. People who had not originally planned to attend the rally added on to the crowd already in place as news of the attack was publicized.

Responsibility for the ambush was claimed by George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the radical Palestinian groups that has vowed to sabotage the peace parley.

NEWS ANALYSIS:
ISRAELI TALKS WITH PALESTINIANS OFFER THE BEST HOPE FOR PROGRESS
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- When Israel begins face-to-face negotiations with its Arab adversaries next week, the area most likely to see real progress is the Palestinian issue.

Following this week's ceremonial opening session in Madrid, devoted largely to speeches, Israel will begin separate negotiations with Syria, Lebanon and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Few observers expect any real progress with Syria, since President Hafez Assad has made clear he is not interested in peace with Israel.

Assad's only goal is to get all of the Golan Heights back, something which Israel rejects. Even the opposition Labor Party is against total withdrawal from the Golan, since the memory of how kibbutzim in northern Galilee were shelled before 1967 is still fresh.

As for Lebanon, even if it had a government that could make a binding decision, the country is now fully under the dominance of Syria. The Israelis have not forgotten how a 1983 agreement between Israel and Lebanon, hammered out by Secretary of State George Shultz, was sabotaged by Syria.

Beirut wants the Israel Defense Force to abandon its border security zone in southern Lebanon, but Israel is unwilling to do so until there is a force capable of preventing terrorist groups operating in the region from launching attacks against the Jewish state.

But the Palestinian issue holds hope for success, according to Robert Satloff, assistant director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a pro-Israel think tank.

That is because there is agreement not to talk now about the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip but to negotiate an interim period of self-rule for the Palestinians, Satloff said.

Talks To Focus On Self-Rule

While the Palestinians may make speeches about their demands for a Palestinian state, they have agreed that the actual negotiations will be about self-rule, Satloff explained.

This is essentially the Camp David formula in which Israel and the Palestinians will only discuss the final status of the West Bank after three years of self-rule.

This is the right approach and can succeed if done properly, said Sol Linowitz, a Washington lawyer who between 1979 and 1981 was the Carter administration's envoy to Israeli-Egyptian negotiations on Palestinian autonomy.

"A lot was achieved between 1978 and 1981," Linowitz said in an interview. He explained that the parties were 80 percent of the way to achieving autonomy, with agreements on 25 major areas, including such matters as police, taxation, budget, agriculture and refugee rehabilitation.

"It is too bad that over 10 years have elapsed" without building on the progress made, Linowitz said. When the Reagan administration entered office in 1981, it dropped the idea of a special envoy.

Nevertheless, Israel has continued to offer autonomy as an alternative to any withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Palestinian autonomy was the heart of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's May 1989 peace plan.

That plan floundered when the Palestinians insisted on including residents of East Jerusalem in talks aimed at implementing its first stage: free elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel was opposed to their inclusion and to the Arabs' insistence on an international conference.

These concerns remained when Secretary of State James Baker revived efforts to bring about negotiations in the aftermath of the U.S. success in the Persian Gulf War.

But Israel ultimately felt it had to accept a conference, and the Palestinians, with the Palestine Liberation Organization weakened because of its support for Saddam Hussein, had to give in on East Jerusalem representation.

Policy Of Minimal Interference

Linowitz said he hopes Israel will make its autonomy offer from the point he left off in 1981, in return for such concessions as an end to the intifada and a relaxation of the Arab League boycott against Israel.

But the issues that were unsolved in 1981 remain unsolved, Linowitz said. In addition to the status of East Jerusalem Arabs, they include security arrangements and the status of existing Jewish settlements in the territories.

These are all issues that can be left for the final-status talks that will take place once an autonomy plan is implemented, Satloff said.

Even Israeli officials who are opposed to any withdrawal from the West Bank or Gaza Strip have maintained that no one knows what the situation will be after Jews and Arabs have gone through a period of confidence-building as a result of Palestinian self-rule.

Autonomy as envisioned by the Israelis would allow Palestinians to go through their daily lives with minimal interference from Israeli authorities.

Palestinians would have control over such areas as education, local transportation, administration of justice, municipal affairs, agriculture, industry, trade and tourism.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens has already taken a step toward minimal interference by moving Israeli forces out of the major Arab population centers, except when necessary.

But there is little disagreement in Israel that no matter what happens in the territories, Israel must retain some kind of presence in the West Bank and Gaza to protect its security.

This means at the minimum that Israeli troops would have to be deployed along the eastern slopes of the West Bank mountain ridge and that early-warning and intelligence-gathering systems would have to be installed.

Shamir Rejects Settlement Freeze

The Palestinians could torpedo the negotiations by demanding a freeze on construction of Jewish settlements, something the Shamir government refuses to do.

Shamir said Sunday, in an interview with the Cable News Network, that the issue of settlements will be resolved automatically once there is an agreement with the Arabs on Israel's boundaries.

It is not clear what pressure the United States will exercise in Israel's negotiations with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and during the other bilateral talks. The United States has said it will be outside the door, ready to help, if asked by the parties.

Israel would like the United States to stay outside at the start. But U.S. participation is expected before the final i's are dotted and t's are crossed.

AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES TRIAL OPENS AGAINST UKRAINIAN ALLEGED KILLER
By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- After months of delay, Australia's first war crimes trial opened Monday in an Adelaide court with a 20-minute recital of charges against Ukrainian-born Ivan Polyukhovich, accused of complicity in the mass murders of Jews in the Nazi-occupied Ukraine during World War II.

According to the prosecution, Polyukhovich, in September 1942, helped the German authorities identify and round up 850 Jews from the ghetto in Serniki village, who were then systematically shot to death over a 12-hour period.

The prosecution also informed the court the Special Investigations Unit of the Australian Attorney General's Department had gathered forensic evidence upon exhuming the mass graves of the victims. Investigators found that 96 of 553 identifiable skeletal remains were of children under 9 and 410 of the victims died of rifle shots to the backs of their heads.

The victims came from the villages of Serniki, Alexandropove and Brodnitsa.

Polyukhovich, 74, a longtime resident of Adelaide, South Australia, was charged last January with war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He is the first Australian national brought to trial under a 1988 statute that allows Australian courts to prosecute war crimes committed abroad.

But his trial was delayed by a challenge to the constitutionality of the law. It was upheld by Australia's High Court on Aug. 14.

Prosecution witnesses will be called on to relate how Polyukhovich, a forest warden at the time, personally hunted down 24 escaped Jews and murdered them in front of other villagers.

The Crown plans to call 20 eyewitnesses from around the world and people who knew the accused socially, including his sister-in-law. They will start giving testimony on Nov. 11.

Since prosecution efforts began, two witnesses have died, resulting in one murder charge being dropped.

The alleged war criminal has his supporters. Eight members of the racist, anti-Semitic Australian League of Rights demonstrated outside the courthouse before the trial began.

WHITE SUPREMACIST METZGER CONVICTED FOR CROSS-BURNING
By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Veteran white supremacist Tom Metzger, leader of the White Aryan Resistance, was convicted Monday for his role in a 1983 cross-burning ceremony in suburban Los Angeles.

Although a Superior Court jury found Metzger guilty on only one misdemeanor charge of unlawful assembly, the verdict represents his first criminal conviction during decades of anti-black and anti-Jewish activities. He faces up to six months in jail.

After an 11-week trial and six days of jury deliberation, jurors deadlocked on two other counts, including a more serious felony charge of violating fire codes. Prosecutors have not yet decided whether to retry Metzger on the two charges.

He stood trial with three other men, who were convicted on felony and misdemeanor counts and face up to four years in prison. They are Stanley Witek, leader of the neo-Nazi National Socialist American Workers Party; Erich Schmidt; and Brad Kelly.

The trial of Metzger, a former grand dragon of the California Ku Klux Klan, stemmed from a ceremony in December 1983 during which 15 men joined in shouting racist slogans, giving Nazi salutes and burning three huge crosses in a canyon overlooking the community of Lake View Terrace.

Prosecutors charged that the cross-burning was intended to provoke violent clashes, unite several white racist groups, and intimidate residents of the racially mixed community.

The cross-burning was videotaped by a freelance journalist who had infiltrated the group, and the tape was introduced at the trial.

It showed Richard Butler, head of the Idaho-based Aryan Nations, leading a "prayer" and proclaiming: "So long as the alien occupies your land, hate is your law and revenge is your first duty. We light these crosses in the name of God, over the Luciferian scum of the Earth."

Throughout the trial, prosecutors bored in on the goals of the white supremacist movement. During cross-examination of Butler, who appeared as a defense witness, he emphasized the need for a separate white state and maintained that the Holocaust never happened.

Although Metzger has never faced criminal charges before, last year he lost a $12.5 million judgment in a civil suit brought by the family of an Ethiopian man who was beaten to death by Oregon Skinheads allegedly inspired by Metzger.

Metzger, 53, appeared pleased by the outcome of the trial.

Deputy District Attorney Dale Davidson said that while Metzger deserved a harsher sentence the verdict sends a message that racist behavior will not be tolerated in Los Angeles County.

DIRECT FLIGHTS MAY ELIMINATE NEED FOR TRANSIT POINTS, DINITZ REPORTS
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- The establishment of regular direct flights from Soviet cities to Israel will increase the flow of immigrants from the Soviet Union, Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz predicted this week.

It will also diminish the need for transfer points in Eastern European capitals, Dinitz told a meeting of the Jewish Agency Executive here.

Dinitz, who also chairs the World Zionist Organization, said there has already been an 11 percent increase in visa applications from the Soviet Union. Today, 35,000 Soviet Jews hold entry visas to Israel, and another 50,000 have exit permits from the Soviet authorities, he said.

Dinitz reported that since a new commercial airline named Aerolicht began flying olim directly from Kishinev to Tel Aviv, the number of immigrants who travel via Bucharest has declined.

Dinitz said there would be a major reduction in operations at Eastern European transit stations after El Al and Aeroflot, the Soviet national air carrier, begin direct immigrant flights to Israel from the Soviet Union next month.

Meanwhile, Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, reported that some 4,000 Jews are still in Ethiopia, about 2,500 of them in Gondar province.

Gordon said the Jewish Agency will continue its efforts to bring them to Israel at a rate of 100 to 150 a week.