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**BUSH URGES TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE
AS MIDEAST PARLEY OPENS IN MADRID**

By Michel Di Paz

MADRID, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Israeli officials had mainly upbeat reactions to President Bush's speech opening the historic Middle East peace conference here Wednesday.

Their worst fears did not materialize.

Speaking in broad terms, the U.S. president did not call for a freeze on Jewish settlement-building in the West Bank while peace talks are under way; nor did he refer to the explosive issue of East Jerusalem's status.

But some of his remarks were sufficient to etch tension on the face of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who is heading the 14-member Israeli delegation. He looked on grimly as Bush called for giving the Palestinians "meaningful control over their own lives and fate."

He alternated between tightly clutched hands and stubbornly locked arms when the president reminded the assemblage that U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are the basis of the upcoming bilateral negotiations.

The resolutions call on Israel to trade territory for peace, which Shamir repeatedly has ruled out.

Speaking after Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Marquez welcomed the delegates to Madrid, Bush said, "We believe territorial compromise is essential for peace."

That could not have pleased Shamir, who has vowed Israel will give up no additional territory for peace. Nevertheless, the Israelis had positive things to say about Bush's remarks.

Not Merely A Cessation Of War

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, a member of the Israeli delegation, praised the president for stressing that peace, not simply non-belligerency, was the goal of the conference and could be reached only by direct negotiations.

The Palestinian and Arab state delegations also seemed basically pleased with Bush's speech, though they regretted that he had not urged Israel to stop settlement-building and did not challenge the status of Jerusalem, which Israel regards as its indivisible capital.

If Bush avoided such sensitive issues, his conference co-host, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, addressed the conference opening in even broader generalities.

Clearly the junior partner of the United States in this enterprise and apparently more concerned with the uncertain future of his vast homeland, Gorbachev nevertheless offered encouraging homilies.

"Today we have a unique opportunity, and it would be unforgivable to miss this opportunity," he said.

Echoing Bush almost verbatim, he said, "I am speaking of peace rather than mainly a cessation of the state of war, and a durable peace implies the implementation of and respect for the rights of the Palestinian people."

Gorbachev and Shamir exchanged a warm, smiling handshake for the media Tuesday, during what was the first-ever meeting between the two nations' heads of government. It was one of the

Israeli leader's first dividends from the full resumption of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel.

But there were no handclaps between any Israelis and their Arab adversaries.

The sole exception was Egyptian Foreign Minister Amre Moussa, representing the only Arab country to have a peace treaty with Israel, who publicly shook hands with Shamir.

The very fact that the conference opened on schedule after months of doubt that it would ever materialize was the crowning achievement of the relentless U.S. diplomacy conducted by Secretary of State James Baker over the last eight months.

U.S. Seeking A 'Real Peace'

President Bush explained clearly that U.S. diplomatic pressure was not applied simply to end the state of belligerency in the Middle East.

Like Gorbachev, he stressed, "We seek peace, real peace. And by real peace, I mean treaties, security, diplomatic relations, economic relations, trade, investment, cultural exchanges, even tourism."

After making a startling comparison with the situation between France and Germany in 1945, right after World War II, Bush said the 1978 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt is "striking proof" that former adversaries can make and sustain peace.

He observed that even bitter foes like Israel and Syria respect the disengagement agreements they signed over the Golan Heights.

Bush said he did not expect peace to be "negotiated in a day, or a week, or a month, or even a year."

"What we envision is a process of direct negotiations proceeding along two tracks, one between Israel and the Arab states; the other between Israel and the Palestinians," Bush said.

"The real work will not happen here in the plenary session, but in direct bilateral negotiations," he said.

"This conference cannot impose a settlement on the participants or veto agreements," he said. "And just as important, the conference can only be reconvened with the consent of every participant," the president noted, affirming a condition demanded by Israel.

"Progress is in the hands of the parties who must live with the consequences," Bush stressed.

He referred directly to the Israeli-Palestinian talks, for which he set a timetable.

Agreement Within One Year

"A framework already exists for diplomacy," he said. "Negotiations will be conducted in phases, beginning with talks on interim self-government arrangements."

"We aim to reach agreement within one year," the president said. "And once agreed, interim self-government arrangements will last for five years."

"Beginning the third year, negotiations will commence on permanent status," he said, reiterating what was essentially the 1978 Camp David formula.

According to Bush, "now is the ideal moment for the Arab world to demonstrate that attitudes have changed, that the Arab world is

willing to live in peace with Israel and make allowances for Israel's reasonable security needs.

"Israel now has an opportunity to demonstrate that it is willing to enter into a new relationship with its Palestinian neighbors," the president added.

Shamir was to address the peace conference Thursday morning. After the speeches Wednesday, he apparently had what was described as a "discreet" private meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Moussa.

Moussa, an observer rather than negotiator, inasmuch as Israel and Egypt are at peace, was the only diplomat to publicly raise the issue of Jerusalem on Wednesday.

Referring to its "special status" as a holy city to three faiths, Moussa said, "The occupying power should not exercise monopoly, illegal sovereignty. The persistence of unilateral decisions to annex the Holy City lacks any validity or legitimacy," he said.

Jewish Groups Hail Bush Speech

In New York, meanwhile, two umbrella groups representing the vast majority of mainstream American Jewish organizations issued statements praising Bush's speech to the peace conference.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, representing 50 national groups, hailed Bush's address as "balanced and fair."

"The president's rejection of an imposed solution should do much to disabuse those Arab states that had hoped American pressure on Israel would preclude the need for them to engage in direct negotiations and compromise," the conference said.

A statement issued by the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council said that "American Jews -- indeed all Americans -- should be pleased with the tone and direction set today" by Bush.

The group, which represents 11 national Jewish organizations and over 100 community relations councils, applauded the president's position that progress toward peace can only take place through direct negotiations and by taking into account Israel's security concerns.

U.S. HOPES TO CONVENE DIRECT TALKS DESPITE DISAGREEMENT OVER LOCATION By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- The United States is still aiming to convene direct talks between Israel and the various Arab parties by Sunday, even though they are at odds on where such negotiations should take place.

"I have seen no expressions of reluctance to go forward with bilateral negotiations," Secretary of State James Baker said Wednesday, when questioned by reporters in Madrid about Syria's perceived reservations about meeting face to face with Israel.

But he acknowledged that there are differences among the parties about where those talks should take place. Some of the Arab countries prefer to have the three sets of direct talks take place outside the Middle East, but Israel wants them to rotate between Jerusalem and Arab capitals.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who along with Jordan Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber gave separate news confer-

ences before Baker, said that the direct talks should take place in the region.

He observed that the initial talks preceding the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty took place in the region, as did the Israeli-Egyptian and Israeli-Syrian disengagement talks after the 1973 Yom Kippur War. All were a success, he noted.

According to the conference invitations issued by the United States and the Soviet Union, direct bilateral talks are to begin four days after the opening of the peace conference. Israel will be negotiating separately with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Baker, who spoke several hours after the conclusion of the Wednesday's opening session of the peace conference, said the gathering "put one old taboo to rest," meaning that Israelis and Arabs were in the same room for peace talks.

"You crawl before you walk, and you walk before you run. I think today we all began to crawl," Baker said.

"From this day forward, dialogue and negotiations, not violence and confrontation, should be the hallmark of the Middle East," he said.

"The true intentions of each of the parties will come when they sit down face to face across the table in bilateral contexts, and perhaps even in a multilateral context, to address some of the regional issues that affect the region."

The secretary of state reiterated that the United States does not intend "to take a position on borders. It is, we think, up to the participants themselves to negotiate this.

"At the same time," he added, "I think it is a fact of life that Israel's willingness to compromise on territory will be affected by Arab willingness to address Israel's legitimate security needs and to enter into a real peace with all that that entails."

'Seven Fresh Orphans' In Israel

Netanyahu and Abu Jaber each tried to portray their countries' plight for the past 43 years as the most difficult one.

The Israeli, referring to his country's geographic problem in defending itself, said that when he was in better physical shape, he ran from the Mediterranean Sea to Israel's eastern border in less than an hour.

He also said there were "seven fresh orphans in Israel" because of recent terrorism.

The Jordanian, calling the Madrid talks "a new phase" in the region's history, said he wants to be able to tell his grandchild that "I put my heart in my hand to make peace."

Netanyahu argued that Israel, by withdrawing from the Sinai a decade ago in return for peace with Egypt, should not now automatically have to return the other territories captured in 1967.

"If Israel has already given a full 91 percent of the territories, that compromise does not mean that Israel is asked to give 100 percent, and the other side is asked to give zero," he argued.

Abu Jaber, when questioned about any Jordanian willingness to concede some of the territories to Israel, did not rule out the possibility, although he talked of having East Jerusalem restored to Arab control.

When pressed on his view toward shaking the hand of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Abu Jaber said he would do so "when we reach a settlement, when our rights are recognized, when the Palestinian people are recognized and their self-determination, when Arab Jerusalem is returned to Arab sovereignty."

FEW SIGNS OF PEACE IN MIDEAST AS PARTIES GATHER IN MADRID

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- While Arab and Israeli delegates were being urged to negotiate an end to their conflict in Madrid, few signs of peace were evident in and around the land that is the source of their dispute.

Israelis mourned their latest fatalities -- three soldiers killed by a land mine in southern Lebanon on Tuesday and two civilians gunned down in a bus ambush Monday in the West Bank.

Calls for revenge filled the streets.

Israel Defense Force soldiers shot dead a 19-year-old Palestinian during an anti-Israel demonstration in the West Bank on Wednesday while Palestinians also battled each other.

More than 50 were injured in factional strife between supporters of the peace process and advocates of continued armed struggle. Four of the injuries were stab wounds.

Israel's ministerial defense committee met to discuss the worsening situation on the Lebanese border. Foreign Minister David Levy presided, in the absence of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who is heading the Israeli delegation in Madrid.

Levy, a deputy prime minister, was not in the best of moods. He was deeply hurt when Shamir announced he would lead the Israeli peace team to Madrid, and decided to stay home.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens blamed Syria directly for the latest attacks on the Israel Defense Force in southern Lebanon. His remarks only added to the tension between the two bitter neighbors.

Likud Knesset member Yehoshua Saguy, accused the Syrians of hypocrisy for going to the peace conference while abetting murderous attacks on Israel.

Hamas Strike In Territories

Arens told the Knesset later that it was important to tackle the peace process without illusions, yet with the will to make a breakthrough. But he did not say how Israel should respond to the latest violence.

Knesset member Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party, who advocates maximum Jewish settlement in the administered territories, urged militancy as a solution.

He demanded that the IDF find "new ways" to curb the intifada. He called on the Israeli delegates in Madrid to boycott prominent Palestinians such as Hanan Ashrawi, whom he accused of encouraging terrorism.

Ashrawi is not a member of the official Palestinian delegation but speaks for the six-member advisory group accompanying it to Spain.

Knesset member Binyamin Ben-Eliezer of the opposition Labor Party warned of the growing escalation in southern Lebanon. He noted that the Syrian-backed Lebanese regular army has done nothing to curb the anti-Israel raids of Shi'ite fundamentalists.

The Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement in the Gaza Strip, which has pledged violence to derail the peace talks, called yet another general strike in the administered territories. It was widely observed, more out of fear of Hamas terror tactics than support for the extremists' cause.

In fact, pro-peace rallies were staged by Arabs in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood and the Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, former intifada trouble spots.

RIGHT-WING GROUPS FORM COALITION BACKING SHAMIR ON 'PEACE FOR PEACE'

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Under the banner of "Peace for Peace: Emergency Coalition Against Unilateral Israeli Concessions," over a dozen right-wing pro-Israel groups have come out in support of Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's demand for peace without territorial compromise.

"If Arabs in the Middle East love their children, they have to respond to Israel with genuine, unconditional peace," William Rapfogel said Wednesday at a news conference announcing the coalition's formation.

Once the state of war between Israel and its neighbors has ended, the rest of the issues can be negotiated, said Rapfogel, who is director of the Institute of Public Affairs of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

"Peace for peace is such a simple concept, but it has been lost apparently in the diplomatic shuttle," said Howard Weber, one of the organizers of the coalition.

Weber claimed that groups in the coalition speak for the majority of American Jewry. He noted that a recent American Jewish Committee poll found American Jews rejecting the trade of land for peace by a 45-27 percent margin.

Speakers at the news conference warned that American Jews soon will have to fight U.S. pressure on Israel of a sort not seen in many years.

"Mr. President, read my lips: Stop bashing Israel," said Sister Rose Thering of the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel and the National Council of American Nuns.

The most prominent coalition members are several Orthodox organizations. In addition to the Orthodox Union, they include the National Council of Young Israel, Rabbinical Council of America, Emunah Women and the Bnei Akiva youth group.

Shamir Urged To Be Flexible

Also supporting the coalition are Americans for a Safe Israel, Jordan is Palestine Inc., Techia/USA, Betar-Tagar, the Manhattan region of the Zionist Organization of America, the Coalition for Israel, the Jewish Political Caucus, the Society of Jewish Public Health Workers and the Council of Jewish Organizations in Civil Service.

The group also received messages of support from the Toronto Zionist Council, the Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association and the Montana Association of Jewish Communities.

On the opposite end of the political spectrum, 17 prominent American Jews called upon Shamir to compromise, to oppose new settlements and support land for peace.

In a statement organized by the International Center for Peace in the Middle East, they also called on the Palestinians and other Arabs to "clearly reaffirm their willingness to live in peace with the State of Israel."

Signatories included authors Saul Bellow, E.L. Doctorow, Chaim Potok, Irving Howe, Alfred Kazin and Philip Roth; Nobel laureates Kenneth Arrow, Joshua Lederberg and Arthur Kornberg; Martin Peretz, editor in chief of The New Republic; Henry Rosovsky, former dean of arts, Harvard University; Michael Walzer of Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study; Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, ex-president of the American Jewish Congress; Philip Klutznick, ex-president of the World Jewish Congress; and Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

**SLOW PROGRESS BEING MADE IN EFFORT
TO UNDO LITHUANIAN EXONERATIONS**
By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Some progress is being made toward undoing the wrongful exoneration of Nazi collaborators in Lithuania, according to a Simon Wiesenthal Center official who just returned from the Baltic state.

But it is "an uphill battle," waged against a government "reluctant to admit the scope of the problem or to deal with it in a forthright manner," according to the Wiesenthal Center's Israel office director, Efraim Zuroff, who visited Lithuania from Oct. 22 to 28.

Zuroff also serves as director of the Wiesenthal Center's research on Nazi war criminals.

Some 35,000 Lithuanians who were convicted of war crimes by the Soviet regime have been exonerated of any wrongdoing by the newly independent Lithuanian government.

Some Lithuanians who actually aided in Nazi efforts to exterminate the Jews have been awarded financial compensation for time spent in Soviet prisons and have had confiscated property returned to them or their estates.

There is some support among members of the Lithuanian parliament for passage of an amendment allowing for the rescission of wrongful exonérations, but that support is far from universal, Zuroff said in an interview from Israel.

The Holocaust research center has appointed a permanent representative in Vilnius, attorney Faina Kuklianskyte, to work on the effort.

The law the Wiesenthal Center wants amended, passed in May 1990, prohibits the rehabilitation of individuals who participated in genocide.

But the procurator general, the country's chief prosecutor, "is interpreting the law in its most narrow sense," Zuroff said, and is interested "only in people who pulled the trigger," not those "who led Jews to their slaughter."

Until the law is amended, there is no way to reverse the process of exoneration and restitution.

Judge Now Taking Different Stance

The only Jewish member of the 141-person Lithuanian parliament, Emmanuel Zingeris, was to introduce the issue into the legislative body for discussion on Tuesday, Zuroff said.

While in Lithuania, Zuroff met with President Vytautas Landsbergis, Procurator General Arturas Paulauskas, Supreme Court Justice Aristides Pestininkas and members of parliament.

"We found a certain degree of understanding," Zuroff said. "But not everyone agrees."

One of the major obstacles, he said, is that the Lithuanian government has not decided whether or not to establish an independent commission of review to examine all cases of alleged crimes involving collaboration with the Nazis.

They are also undecided about whether or not to make public the names of those exonerated so that Holocaust survivors can come forward if they recognize the names of their tormentors.

"The Lithuanians are interested in rehabilitating as many people as possible," Zuroff noted.

Complicating the picture is the fact that Lithuanian Supreme Court Justice Genadijus Slauta, who, in an Oct. 17 New York Times article, said that the court would reverse any miscarriages of justice, is apparently distancing himself from that position.

Slauta, who was "nowhere to be found" during Zuroff's visit, now says he was misquoted.

**DEFENSE SECRETARY PRAISES ISRAEL
FOR DESTROYING IRAQI NUCLEAR PLANT**
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Defense Secretary Dick Cheney praised Israel this week for having bombed Iraq's planned Osirak nuclear reactor a decade ago.

Cheney's praise comes a few weeks after he criticized Israel for having sent surveillance planes into western Iraq last month to search for Scud missile launchers.

At the annual dinner Monday of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, Cheney received loud applause when he thanked an Israeli defense official for the "bold action" Israel took in 1981 "with respect to the Baghdad reactor."

The official, David Ivri, director general of Israel's Defense Ministry, was in Washington for the annual bilateral meetings to discuss foreign aid and military cooperation.

"No country can be expected to take risks for peace unless it is confident about its security," Cheney said, referring to this week's Middle East peace conference in Spain.

But earlier this month in New York, Cheney said the Israeli surveillance flights over Iraq were "not helpful," especially since they came at a "delicate moment, when so much is at stake" in the Middle East.

Cheney was speaking then at a news conference before receiving the Appeal of Conscience Foundation's annual award.

On Monday night, the defense secretary received JINSA's Henry M. Jackson Distinguished Service Award, named for the late Democratic senator from Washington who was a strong supporter of Israel.

**COURT AFFIRMS JUDGE CAN'T BEGIN
DAILY COURT SESSIONS WITH PRAYER**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Jewish organizations have welcomed a federal appellate court's unanimous decision to bar a North Carolina judge from opening each day's court session with a prayer.

The U.S. Court of Appeals in Richmond on Tuesday upheld a ruling by the federal district court in Charlotte, N.C., that by allowing such prayers, Judge William Constangy violated the First Amendment to the Constitution.

A lawsuit against the Greensboro trial judge was brought by several defense attorneys who objected to Constangy opening each day's session with a non-sectarian prayer that he composed. Constangy argued that he was doing nothing different than the chaplains who open sessions of the U.S. Congress with a prayer each day.

The appeal court's decision "is a welcome affirmation of first principles," said Marc Stern, co-director of the American Jewish Congress Commission on Law and Social Action.

AJCongress filed friend-of-the court briefs in support of the suit in both the district and appeals courts.

"The Constitution not only separates church and state, but also imposes a special obligation on judges to administer justice without creating the appearance of religious partiality," Stern said.

The decision was also welcomed by Steve Freeman, legal director of the Anti-Defamation League, which filed a separate brief against the judge when the case reached the appeals court.