

**ISRAELIS DISTRESSED BY STRIDENCY  
OF ARAB SPEECHES AT PEACE PARLEY**  
By Michel Di Paz

MADRID, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Israeli and Arab delegates seemed to be talking at each other, over each other, but not to each other Thursday, on the second day of the peace conference here.

Neither seemed pleased by the other side's remarks after a day of long speeches, most of them replete with hard-line rhetoric.

While both sides hailed American efforts to arrange the conference, its next and most crucial phase remained in limbo.

Under the ground rules accepted by the parties, separate bilateral talks involving Israel and each of the Arab delegations, including a joint Jordanian-Palestinian one, must begin Sunday.

But there is no agreement yet on where to hold them. Israel insists on a Middle East venue, rotating between Israel and its neighbors.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir invited all to come to Israel. As might have been expected, the offer was flatly refused.

It appeared likely that the bilateral talks would open in Madrid, but where they will continue after that remained to be seen.

There was speculation the issue would be resolved by the time U.S. Secretary of State James Baker gave his closing speech Friday morning.

Shamir and several of the Israeli delegates were to leave immediately afterward, so that they could be home before the Sabbath began in Israel.

After two full days of rhetoric on both sides, it seemed the Israelis would return home upbeat about the American posture at the talks, but clearly angry and distressed by the accusatory tone and stridency of the Arab delegates.

The Syrian foreign minister, Farouk al-Sharaa, was by far the most bellicose, demanding that Israel relinquish "every inch of Arab land occupied by the Israelis by war and force," and return it to its "rightful owners" before Syria will face it at the peace table.

**Satellite Appearance By Hussein**

Jordan's King Hussein made a surprise appearance via satellite Tuesday night, to urge all parties to stop quarreling over trivia and start working on a comprehensive peace.

Shamir delivered a long recital of Jewish and Zionist history, stressing repeatedly the unbreakable bond that links all Jewish people with the land of Israel. He blamed the Arab states for the plight of the Palestinians and the Palestinians for their own troubles.

In the eyes of the Palestinian delegation, Shamir offered no concessions. In the words of Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinians, though not an official delegate, the Israeli leader addressed the Palestinians in the manner of the "occupier to the occupied."

But Shamir made some cogent points. He recalled that the Arabs refused to accept Israel long before it took control of the territories its foes now want it to yield.

"There was no hint of recognition of Israel before the war in 1967, when the territories in question were not under Israeli control," he said.

"The Arab regimes' rejection of Israel's

existence in the Middle East, and the continuous war they have engaged against it, are part of history," he said.

He accused the Arabs of trying to "rewrite this history, which depicts the Arabs as victims and Israel as the aggressor." Shamir compared that to "attempts to deny the Holocaust."

Nevertheless, Shamir declared, "we invite our partners to this process to come to Israel for the first round of talks. On our part, we are ready to go to Jordan, to Lebanon and to Syria for the same purpose."

After quoting Isaiah on peace, he added, "Let us declare, here and now, an end to war, to belligerence and to hostility. Let us march forward together in reconciliation and peace."

Tense moments developed when the chief of the Palestinian delegation, Haider Abdel-Shafi, all but acknowledged that the Palestine Liberation Organization was its guiding hand.

Israel refuses to talk to anyone connected with the PLO and had been promised by the United States that it would not have to.

**A Partial Quote From Arafat**

Abdel-Shafi said he had been "denied the right to publicly acknowledge our loyalty to our leadership and system of government, but allegiance and loyalty cannot be severed."

The Palestinian concluded his remarks with a quote from PLO chief Yasir Arafat to the U.N. General Assembly in 1974: "Let not the olive branch of peace fall from my hands."

But he failed to note that Arafat said at the time that he had come to the United Nations bearing not only an olive branch but also a "freedom fighter's gun."

In any case, the Israeli delegation did not walk out, as some observers suspected it might under the circumstances.

Abdel-Shafi, a 72-year-old physician from the Gaza Strip, indicated in his speech that he found acceptable the idea of Palestinian autonomy as a provisional solution.

He stressed, however, that interim stages must not be made permanent. He said he was willing to prepare the groundwork for a confederation between a future Palestinian state and the Kingdom of Jordan.

The Israeli line, propounded by Shamir's right-wing government, is that Jordan alone constitutes the Palestinian state.

At a news conference here, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the speeches by Arab delegates earlier in the day, "if read textually beyond the vituperation and even beyond the flowery words, effectively call for the dismantling of Israel."

"This is not the spirit, this is not the hope, that we have come here for," he said.

"I would like to see from the Syrians concrete demonstrations of peace, and a good way to begin" is to accept Shamir's offer to meet in Jerusalem and Arab capitals, he said.

"We don't ask the Syrians to accept anything except our right to exist. Israel's right to exist is no more negotiable than Syria's right to exist," Netanyahu added.

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

# JEWISH LEADER STUNNED BY SPEECH, BUT GRATIFIED BY HISTORIC PROGRESS By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Shoshana Cardin had braced herself for hard-line opening speeches from the Arab delegates at the peace conference in Madrid, but the Syrian foreign minister left her stunned.

"The vituperative rhetoric, the exaggeration of figures and the deliberate distortions of history in the Syrian speech was more than anticipated," the American Jewish leader said in a telephone interview from Madrid.

Cardin, who is chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that despite the harsh tone of the Syrian speech, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was in a decidedly cheery mood when she met with him Thursday evening, at the close of the peace conference's second day.

Despite the posturing of the public sessions, Shamir reported good meetings with other foreign leaders, including one Wednesday with the Egyptian foreign minister.

"For the first time, they discussed issues of substance in a way they had not been able to before," said Cardin. "The meeting with (Soviet President Mikhail) Gorbachev was one of the most pleasant and productive he had ever had with a head of state."

Cardin was pleased with President Bush's opening speech Wednesday, particularly his avoidance of code words, such as "land for peace," and the fact that he did not raise the issue of Israeli settlements in the territories.

The Jewish leader felt her optimistic mood wane during the Palestinian address, only to worsen as Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa spoke.

## U.S. Unprepared For 'Extreme Venom'

Among the most disturbing of his "harsh and outrageous" remarks, she said, was his call for the dismantling of all Israeli settlements in the disputed territories, including Jerusalem, and the demand for the return of every inch of land.

"Judging by their body language, I think the Americans were not prepared for the extreme venom this speech spewed," said Cardin.

Nonetheless, "the fact that everyone sat down together, in itself was an accomplishment," she said.

"Israelis I've been speaking to here feel this was a beginning of a process, a process that is now irreversible. There are contacts between Israelis and others in the Arab states," she said.

Those contacts included a one-hour news conference Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave to the Arab press Thursday, an event Cardin called a "major breakthrough."

Cardin herself made brief small talk with two Palestinians when they were introduced to her by Israelis.

But she cautioned about what lies beyond the opening, ceremonial stage of the conference.

"This was vital and historic, in the sense that it afforded the opportunity to sit at the table and face each other," she said. "Now that the real work begins it becomes much more difficult."

Pointing out that it took decades for Washington and Moscow to conclude arms-control accords, she said, "There will be starts and stops. Any cessation of direct talks should not be viewed as a breakdown."

# OLIVE BRANCHES AND UZIS SHARE PODIUM AT RALLIES IN WEST BANK By Gil Sedan

ARRABA, West Bank, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- The courtyard of the elementary school in this Palestinian village was filled Thursday with exhilarated youths, chanting nationalist slogans in front of walls covered with Palestine Liberation Organization flags and portraits of Yasser Arafat.

It was a rare phenomenon in the territories -- not only because the crowd of several hundred mainly youthful Palestinians blatantly ignored the official Israeli ban on political gatherings, but also because it was a conspicuous local expression of support for the peace conference in Madrid and the pro-PLO delegates participating in it.

In terms of internal Palestinian politics, the significance of the rally, one of several held Thursday in various parts of the West Bank, was that it came in response to a general strike in the territories staged successfully by Palestinian rejectionist groups.

The strike was called to protest the "surrender" of the Palestinian delegation and Arafat's wing of the PLO to American and Israeli dictates.

Arafat supporters have claimed that the near total observance of the strike was more a result of fear of violence by the hard-liners than an indication of agreement with their line.

Arraba has long been a stronghold of Arafat's Al Fatah wing of the PLO. But pro-Arafat rallies were held elsewhere in the territories.

In Ramallah, hundreds took part in processions through the streets of the city, following the speech in Madrid by the head of the Palestinian delegation, Haider Abdel-Shafi. A noisy motorcade of cars tooting their horns set out on the main road from Ramallah to Jerusalem, while Palestinians on foot covered military jeeps with olive branches, as smiling border police looked on.

## Is Message Really 'One Of Peace'?

In Arraba, army soldiers were not on the scene. Only a small force of soldiers manned a checkpoint at the entrance to the village.

Speakers at the rally, mostly local activists of the Shabiba, the outlawed youth movement of Al Fatah, outdid each other with nationalist speeches. They expressed support for the Madrid peace conference, but at the same time stressed their determination to continue the intifada and the armed struggle against Israel.

As if to prove they meant business, during one of the speeches, a car drove into the school courtyard, carrying two youths on its bumper, each brandishing an Uzi submachine gun.

To the cheers of the crowd, they strode up to the podium, rifles in one hand and olive branches in the other, imitating Arafat's gesture in his 1974 speech to the U.N. General Assembly.

As a reporter tried to leave the scene, a local youth pounded on the car window to ensure that he would not leave with the mistaken impression. "Don't get us wrong. The message that should come out of here is one of peace, not war," he said.

Nevertheless, it is clear that, along with new hopes for peace, the rifles and pistols are out there in the territories, and they are being used more than ever in the past. This week two Israelis, a mother of seven and a father of four, paid with their lives as another segment of the Palestinian population made its views on the peace process starkly clear.

# **NEWS ANALYSIS: REPUBLICANS DENY DUKE'S CANDIDACY WILL COST THEM JEWISH VOTES IN '92**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- Leading Jewish Republicans doubt that David Duke's surprisingly strong showing in the Oct. 19 Louisiana gubernatorial primary will diminish Jewish support for President Bush and GOP congressional candidates in next year's elections.

They stress that although the former neo-Nazi and Ku Klux Klansman is a Republican state legislator, he has been repudiated by both the White House and the Republican National Committee, which do not consider him a Republican.

President Bush reiterated at a White House news conference last Friday that he "could not possibly support David Duke" because of his appeals to racism and bigotry.

But problems could develop if Duke were to win his Nov. 16 runoff election against former Democratic Gov. Edwin Edwards, conceded Richard Fox, co-chairman of the National Jewish Coalition, an organization whose aim is to increase Jewish support for the Republicans.

Yet Fox and others expressed doubt that Duke could be used by Democrats as an issue to discourage Jews from voting for Republicans. Fox predicted that Duke will not be an issue when the presidential campaign gets under way next year.

While Edwards emerged as the front-runner, with 34 percent of the vote in the open primary, Duke, with 32 percent, was a close second.

Gov. Buddy Roemer, a Democrat-turned-Republican who had Bush's support, was eliminated when he received only 27 percent of the vote.

Every one of several Jewish Republicans interviewed by telephone agreed that Duke's electoral popularity indicates a problem in this country. But all maintained it is one that affects all Americans, Democrats as well as Republicans.

Duke, who once publicly idolized Adolf Hitler, did not make overt racist references in his campaign, but used code words that were seen as attacking Jews and blacks. His campaign exploited a general dissatisfaction with government.

## **'Fundamentally A Racist'**

"David Duke is an early alert warning to both Republicans and Democrats," said Jacob Stein, a longtime Republican activist and onetime chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Stein said there is a need for the leaders of both parties to understand the problems in the country and provide the leadership to solve them.

Bush seemed to agree at his news conference. He said Duke appeared to "influence a lot of plain, honest, decent voters. There is a discontent among a lot of voters. Maybe he touched a cord on that."

Matthew Brooks, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition, argued that Duke is a "bipartisan problem."

Brooks said while the Republican leadership has shunned Duke, the Democrats have not done the same to Rep. Gus Savage (D-Ill.), who has frequently made anti-Semitic remarks.

"I see no difference in the messages of hatred and anti-Semitism between Gus Savage and David Duke," Brooks said.

Fox said Duke is "fundamentally a racist" who takes on whatever party suits him for the moment.

"Everyone in the political system sees this guy as a total aberration and someone they don't want to have anything to do with," he said.

Asked what would happen if Duke appears as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Houston next August, all the Jewish Republicans said they doubted his credentials would be accepted.

But the National Jewish Democratic Council believes that Bush and other national Republicans should do more than just wash their hands of the Louisiana state legislator.

The council sent a letter to the White House last Friday urging Bush to endorse the Democrat Edwards. The letter was signed by Stuart Eizenstat and Steve Grossman, vice chairmen of the council; Hyman Bookbinder; Howard Squadron; and Steve Gutow, the council's executive director.

"We realize that this is an unusual request of a Republican president, but the Louisiana gubernatorial race is not a typical situation, given David Duke's neo-Nazi and Ku Klux Klan past," the letter said.

Gutow said that either Edwards or Duke will be elected Louisiana's governor in the runoff, and the choice is clear. "No one suggests any racist or sexist or religious bigotry" on the part of Edwards, he said.

But Bush said at his Friday news conference that he will not involve himself in the runoff.

## **AUSTRALIAN SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY TRIES TO CLEAR ANTI-SEMITIC CHARGES**

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- A small, single-issue political party is trying to clear itself of charges it is anti-Semitic after a candidate it endorsed delivered a speech denying the Holocaust.

Greypower, a senior citizens advocacy party, now requires all speeches made on its behalf to be cleared before delivery.

The rule was imposed after a candidate, Elena Bulis, spoke in Adelaide recently on "The Enemy Within." Bulis denied the Holocaust ever occurred and claimed "Jewish pressure" was responsible for the Nazi war crimes trials.

Greypower's South Australia spokesperson, Betty Preston, told the Australian Jewish News in an interview that the party is investigating Bulis' comments and certainly is not anti-Jewish.

But Greypower has a suspect record. The president of its New South Wales branch, Robert Clark, has been criticized by other elderly interest groups for advocating a "white Australia."

Clark's close ties with extreme right-wing racist groups has drawn criticism in Parliament and led to the resignation of the party's state deputy president in 1989.

Participating in a public forum on immigration policy last year, Clark said, "We should limit our immigrants to the type of people who are traditionally small breeders. I do not want my grandchildren to struggle to feed their family."

The comments of the Greypower candidate in Adelaide have added impetus to efforts by the Jewish community to have Holocaust denial specified as a form of racism in proposed new anti-racist legislation before the national Parliament.

The International Christian Embassy's Australian chapter has endorsed the call. Its leader, Pastor Gerald Rowlands, argued that "only people with ulterior, insidious motives would have the affront to deny so well-documented an event."

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:****STREETS OF CROWN HEIGHTS QUIET, BUT THE SCARS OF RIOTING REMAIN**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Oct. 31 (JTA) -- More than two months have passed since riots ripped through Crown Heights, leaving death, property damage and lingering suspicion in their wake.

A few weeks ago, police officers in riot gear stood shoulder-to-shoulder in the neighborhood's hot spots, forming impermeable human walls.

Nearly all of them are gone now.

The television news crews, ambulances and police vans that took over the streets during the rioting have given way to delivery trucks and residents' well-worn cars.

A sign pasted to a lamppost by the militant group Kahane Chai, advertising a \$10,000 reward for information leading them to the murderers of Yankel Rosenbaum, is almost completely hidden beneath leaflets publicizing Talmud study sessions and ads for "Mazel Tov flower arrangements."

Life for the residents of Crown Heights has returned to normal. Almost.

On a sunny weekday morning, Raskin's Fish Market, in the heart of Crown Heights' Jewish shopping district, was bustling.

Across a display case of whole salmon, bluefish and flounder nestled in crushed ice, proprietor Shalom Raskin bantered with customers whose accents revealed roots in Brooklyn, Russia and several Caribbean islands.

As he told a visitor his first name, one of his Caribbean-American customers translated it, chirping, "peace."

"When the riots were on, it wasn't these people," Raskin said. "They're the nicest neighbors and customers. We got along fine."

But "there's still some anxiety" among Crown Heights' Jews, chimed in his wife, Esther Raskin. "Everybody's uncomfortable."

**'The Eye Of The Storm'**

"For 99 percent of Crown Heights' Jews, the tragedies of Aug. 19 are behind them," explained Rabbi Shea Hecht, a member of the ad-hoc Emergency Committee for the Crown Heights Jewish Community.

On Aug. 19, a car that was part of a motorcade escorting the Lubavitcher rebbe jumped the curb, hitting and killing 7-year-old Gavin Cato, a black child. A few hours later, Yankel Rosenbaum, an Australian student, was murdered by a gang of rampaging black youths.

"But for those who live in the eye of the storm," Hecht continued, referring to the blocks where the rioters raged, "the fear will last for a long time."

Hecht himself was mugged at gunpoint by four blacks on Aug. 27 while standing at a pay phone in another Brooklyn neighborhood, as he called in to a local radio talk show about the Crown Heights disturbances.

Those who were most victimized by the rioters, those who were "trampled by a group of blacks running down the street screaming 'Heil Hitler,' those who had windows shattered by bottles and rocks, who had their cars and apartments firebombed, now live with the kind of fear that "you don't get over easily," he explained.

"You have learned to live with your black neighbors, and understand that they are good, (law-) abiding citizens, and all of a sudden your whole perspective on black people changes. Now

every time a group of black kids coming home from school walks toward you, your heart starts to beat fast," he said.

Hecht estimates that the property damage and medical bills suffered by Lubavitchers will total close to \$800,000, and said that there are many in the community unable to afford it.

Some money has been donated to help cover the breach, he said, but not enough.

Many analyses of the Crown Heights crisis have been offered since the rioting, and many attempts have been made to arrange dialogues between blacks and Jews and to combat what one observer calls "communal illiteracy."

"There are misperceptions and perceptions of injustice on both sides," explained Kenneth Stern, program specialist on anti-Semitism and extremism at the American Jewish Committee.

"Two different languages are being spoken and there are no mechanisms set up to translate from one community to another," he said at a panel discussion organized by black and Jewish student groups at New York Law School.

Some Lubavitchers say that some outside organizations that have organized dialogues and rallies, including the New York Jewish Community Relations Council, the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the New York Civil Rights Coalition, cannot succeed.

**A Time For 'Tachlis'**

"The goal cannot be this great lovey-dovey stuff that the Jewish establishment is used to," said Jacob Goldstein, chairman of the local community board.

"The goal is to respect each other, and a lot of people, these 'great social thinkers,' want to see it go farther, and that's not going to happen. We need to be able to do our own thing," he said. "We don't need interlocutors from the outside trying to steer it."

According to some, too many dialogues have already degenerated into nothing more than blacks pointing fingers at the Jews for enjoying preferential treatment that the Lubavitchers say does not exist.

Roughly 10 percent of Crown Heights' 125,000 residents are Lubavitch. The rest of the population is primarily a mixture of Caribbean-Americans and African-Americans.

Not only are the black contentions "total foolishness," according to Hecht, "but they indirectly legitimize the bottle-throwers. Trying to understand our differences can potentially make us worse off than we are right now, because it's not really dealing with the issues."

He does acknowledge that a period of "airing-out," of exchanging grievances, may have been necessary after August's conflagration.

"But now the emergency is over. Now the hard work begins," he said. He favors blacks and Jews doing "tachlis" (result-oriented) work together on the many problems of mutual concern, and suggests block associations as the mechanism for the coalescing.

But when asked about the likelihood of successful cooperation in the face of mutual suspicion and resentment, Hecht sighed.

"It won't happen," he said. There will be "minimal change only. We will push a program or two through, but our whole way of thinking will not change. The problem is that we're caught up in who is getting what, and we should be using each other's strengths rather than knocking each other's weaknesses."