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**SHAMIR AND LEVY END THEIR QUARREL,  
WHILE NETANYAHU GETS NEW ASSIGNMENT**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- While the peace process has barely begun between Israel and its Arab foes, peace has been achieved quickly at the top levels of the Israeli government.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy have ended their quarrel after a private "peace talk" Wednesday.

The Likud leader made amends to the foreign minister he left behind on the eve of the Madrid conference opening, humiliating him in the process by taking along an aggressive young rival, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Now Netanyahu has been transferred from his post as deputy foreign minister to the Prime Minister's Office.

Levy cannot help but be relieved, since he had no working relationship with Netanyahu, and they were not even on speaking terms.

Yet when it comes to input and influence on Israeli foreign policy, Netanyahu, in his new post close to Shamir, may well overshadow Levy.

Shamir, who announced at the last minute that he, not Levy, would head the Israeli delegation to Madrid, has made a further concession. The Foreign Ministry, which played second fiddle to the prime minister's personal advisers, now has been given command of two key committees dealing with the peace process.

One is in charge of the bilateral talks with Lebanon, and the other will deal with the multi-lateral meetings on regional issues, in which Israel and the various Arab states are supposed to take part.

By assigning the Lebanon bilaterals to the Foreign Ministry, Shamir squeezed out a seasoned diplomat, considered eminently suited to the task.

Uri Lubrani, who was originally supposed to head the negotiations with Lebanon, has been the government's coordinator in southern Lebanon and is considered a leading authority on that country.

Levy admitted candidly to a television interviewer Wednesday that his absence from Madrid did not harm the peace process but himself.

But he said he had no choice. "It was not a manner of honor but rather of proper governance," he said.

**U.S. TO SELL SAUDIS PATRIOTS,  
BUT F-15 DEAL IS OFF FOR NOW**  
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- The Pentagon has informally notified Congress that it intends to sell Saudi Arabia 14 Patriot anti-missile batteries, according to congressional sources.

Such a package would be worth as much as \$3 billion, said a pro-Israel lobbyist here.

Under U.S. law, any proposed arms sale costing more than \$14 million must be formally proposed to Congress within 30 days after informal notification. Congress then has another 30 days to vote to block the sale; otherwise, it automatically goes through.

One congressional source said that Pentagon officials, who held a classified briefing for members of Congress on the subject Wednesday, were

told there are negative feelings about such a sale on Capitol Hill.

Several lawmakers are apparently unhappy with the administration's "piecemeal approach" to Middle East arms sales. Since Congress balked at a proposed massive sale of arms to Saudi Arabia last year, the administration has been introducing such sales in smaller chunks, none of which is likely to meet congressional opposition.

Lawmakers told the Pentagon they want a "big-picture briefing" to unveil the U.S. view of the "grand security needs of the region" in the wake of the Persian Gulf War, a congressional staffer said.

Another Capitol Hill source said the Pentagon also was told that Congress would prefer to see the United States pre-position weaponry in Saudi Arabia that could be used by U.S. forces, rather than sell new weapons to the Saudis.

The Pentagon had no formal comment on the briefing, saying only that no unclassified briefing had taken place.

**No F-15s Until Next Year**

The Pentagon is also playing down reports that the administration is considering selling F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia.

Earlier this week, the St. Louis-based McDonnell Douglas Corp. reported at an arms fair in the United Arab Emirates that the Saudis have formally asked the Bush administration for 72 F-15s, which would cost around \$5 billion.

But a Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Thursday, "I don't see any offensive weapons sales even possibly being considered until after the new year."

That did not surprise a pro-Israel lobbyist here, who said that no such sale would be proposed as long as there is an active peace process in the Middle East.

Absent such a process, the lobbyist said, a sale of F-15s is much more likely, but would probably be in the range of a squadron of 24 F-15s and not a full wing of 72.

Also unclear is what model F-15 would be sold to the Saudis. The Saudis want the F-15E, the most advanced version of the plane, which so far has only been sold in the region to Israel.

The McDonnell Douglas statement was a "trial balloon" designed "to force the Pentagon into supporting the sale," the pro-Israel lobbyist charged.

The idea of selling the Saudis an additional 24 F-15s was contained in "Phase 2" of an administration blueprint of future arms sales to the Saudis unveiled in June 1990.

The Saudis had 60 F-15Cs and F-15Ds when the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait took place, the maximum allowed under the 1987 Metz-enbaum Amendment, which limits the number of weapons sold to the Saudis unless the president certifies otherwise.

President Bush subsequently waived the ceiling and transferred 12 F-15s that the Saudis had already paid for but were being held, in keeping with the congressional limit. He also sold the Saudis an additional 24 F-15s.

By contrast, Israel has a fleet of 55 to 60 F-15s, the pro-Israel lobbyist said.

## FORCES HOPING TO SPOIL PEACE TALKS LINKED TO RISE OF VIOLENCE IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- A sharp escalation of fighting in southern Lebanon this week is attributed here to efforts by Hezbollah and other radical groups to sabotage Arab-Israeli peace moves begun in Madrid.

In the latest action Thursday, Israeli air force jets blasted a base of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine near the Rashidiya refugee camp, south of Tyre on the coast.

The terrorist group, headed by Nayef Hawatmeh, is believed to be working in concert with the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah. The base was destroyed and all planes returned safely after "successful operations," an Israel Defense Force spokesman said.

Despite warnings of severe retaliation by the IDF regional commander, Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, Hezbollah continued to harass the IDF and its allied South Lebanon Army.

A roadside bomb exploded Wednesday near an SLA outpost at Rashaf village in the southern Lebanon security zone. Two additional explosive charges found later elsewhere in the zone were safely dismantled.

Although no casualties or damage resulted, the SLA and IDF fired more than 30 mortar rounds at Haditha village north of the security zone, which is believed to shelter Hezbollah guerrillas. No casualties were reported there.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon reported that more than 100 shells were fired Wednesday night into Shi'ite villages said to be harboring Hezbollah gunmen.

In Beirut, Hezbollah publicly urged the Lebanese government to pull out of the bilateral peace talks with Israel started in Madrid last weekend because of the Israeli shelling.

Israeli observers say the newly aggressive action by Hezbollah is intended to goad Israel into retaliation, which could give the Lebanese government, and the Syrians who control it, an excuse to pull out of the peace talks.

## CAPTURED ISLAMIC TERRORIST SAYS 'SUICIDE MISSION' ALMOST SUCCEEDED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- A captured Islamic terrorist says he and his comrades nearly succeeded in a "suicide mission" into Israel last week aimed at sabotaging the Madrid peace conference before it opened.

According to Fahdy Mohamad Ahmed Elgazar, 20, a member of Islamic Jihad, their orders were to infiltrate Israel and kill as many civilians or soldiers as possible, "except children."

The attempt, on the night of Oct. 29, resulted in a clash with the Israel Defense Force that left three Israeli soldiers dead and five wounded. Of the three would-be infiltrators, only Elgazar survived.

He was interviewed by a Foreign Press Association pool reporter, whose story appeared Thursday.

The youth, who said he was born in Beirut to a Lebanese mother and Palestinian father, joined the Islamic Jihad's propaganda department earlier this year but switched to its guerrilla branch on the promise of a 20 percent pay raise.

He was sent on his mission after only three weeks of basic training at a camp in the Bekaa

Valley of eastern Lebanon, which is controlled by the Syrian army.

Elgazar said his instructors were from the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah. He said no Syrian soldiers ever entered the camp.

On the day before the Madrid conference, he and two companions crossed the southern Lebanon security zone undetected and cut through a steel fence close to the Israeli border.

With only a few yards separating them from what the young terrorist called "occupied Palestine," one of his companions stepped on a mine.

The explosion brought Israeli soldiers rushing to the scene. Despite their injuries, they managed to wound five soldiers before two died.

Elgazar said another fundamentalist guerrilla cell operating in the vicinity killed three IDF soldiers with a remote-control land mine.

The wiry, bearded young man said he knew his mission would almost certainly end in death.

"We knew it was a suicide mission aimed at the peace talks. Our mission was to die for the holy war. Those killed liberating the land of Palestine go straight to heaven," he said.

## JEWISH LEADERS ACCUSE SYRIA OF DISTORTING JEWS' STATUS

NEW YORK, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Two American Jewish leaders have accused the foreign minister of Syria of "distorting" the situation of the 4,000 Jews remaining in his country.

Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa's claims, made at the Madrid peace conference Nov. 1, that Syrian Jews enjoy full civil and religious freedom in that country, do not conform to the facts, charged Shoshana Cardin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Marcos Zalta, president of the Council for the Rescue of Syrian Jews.

In a joint statement issued Thursday, they said that despite Sharaa's claim that Syrian Jews share equal treatment with all other citizens, in fact, "unlike other Syrians, Jews are under constant surveillance by the secret police."

"They cannot travel out of the country as entire families; some family members must be left behind to insure the return of Jews permitted to go abroad, and a large bond must be posted," they said.

"Freedom of immigration is forbidden" in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which Syria is a signatory, Cardin and Zalta pointed out.

"The recent arrest of several families that sought to emigrate, and the continued imprisonment of the husbands of those families, along with others previously charged with the 'crime' of seeking to leave Syria, refutes Minister al-Sharaa's contention," they said.

Regarding religious freedom in Syria, Cardin and Zalta observed: "The right to practice religion does not reduce the constant fear with which an individual lives."

"Restricted professional opportunities, denial of jobs, harassment, fear of arbitrary imprisonment -- all these have contributed to an atmosphere of fear, foreboding and anxiety among the remnants of Jews living under the oppressive Syrian regime."

They appealed to Syrian President Hafez Assad to "demonstrate his commitment to Middle East peace" by allowing Syrian Jews to travel freely and unite with their families in the United States and other lands.

## CANDIDATE TOM HARKIN PAINTS BUSH AS BEING SOFT ON ARAB DICTATORS

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Democratic presidential candidate Tom Harkin is trying to paint President Bush as soft on Arab dictators.

In a speech here Thursday to the American Section of the World Jewish Congress, Harkin accused the president of giving Saddam Hussein a "green light" to invade Kuwait and expressed concern that Bush may be similarly "coddling" Syrian President Hafez Assad.

But the liberal U.S. senator from Iowa played down his own vote against authorizing Bush to use military force against Iraq.

Regarding the current peace process, Harkin ridiculed "the idea that the Golan Heights is somehow important to Syria. Of course it is not," he said. "We ought to let them know up front where we stand on the issue."

The senator also affirmed his support for granting Israel guarantees covering \$10 billion in loans it needs for the resettlement of Soviet immigrants. Pointing out that he co-sponsored a Senate bill authorizing the U.S. guarantees, Harkin called the loans "a moral obligation" after years of U.S. efforts for a Soviet Jewish exodus.

Since he began campaigning for the presidency, Harkin has made his motto "putting America first." Before the Jewish leaders, where years of support for foreign aid is an asset, not a liability, he recast his populism as Zionism.

"We have to know who our friends are in the world," he said.

"It's wrong that George Bush coddles up to Hafez Assad, perhaps like he coddled up to his old friend Saddam Hussein. It's antithetical to everything we believe as a democracy," he said.

As for his own position on the Persian Gulf War, Harkin explained, "I said we should let sanctions work. I'd be glad to debate that war" with Bush, "but I refuse to accept that we have to begin that debate on Jan. 15," when Harkin, along with many Democratic members of Congress, voted against launching the war.

"I want to talk about how he coddled Saddam all those years," the senator said.

### 'David Duke-Type Forces'

Harkin spoke of his support for congressional sanctions against Iraq, including cutting off agricultural aid, prior to the invasion of Kuwait.

"I even went against my own farm interests to vote for it," he boasted. "But the administration said, 'Oh, no, we shouldn't have any kind of sanctions against Iraq.'"

Displaying some of the sarcasm he often uses at campaign rallies, Harkin mocked the Bush administration's statement that it did not expect Iraq to occupy all of Kuwait.

"How much did you think he'd take, Mr. Bush? Five miles? Ten miles?"

Notwithstanding his belief last winter that sanctions should have been given more time to work, Harkin said that had he been president, he would have sent U.S. forces to Kuwait as soon as Iraq began its buildup at the border.

His position, he claimed, would have been that "the first Iraqi across the border is a dead man. Period."

"Where's the rainbow after the storm now?" he asked. "The Kurds are a basket case, Hussein's still in power."

In response to a question, Harkin refused to

renounce his opposition to the war in light of findings that Iraq was just a year from developing an atomic bomb.

"We will never really know the answer," about the viability of sanctions, he said.

"It points out that our whole intelligence community has to be shaken up. They spend \$30 billion, and they don't know anything about what he has.

"Based on the intelligence we had, I became convinced at the time" of the war vote that Iraq's atomic capability was "years away," he said.

Regarding Soviet Jews, Harkin stated his opposition to linking the loan guarantees to either the peace process or the cessation of Israeli settlement-building in the West Bank.

"These are human beings. They should not be used for bargaining chips," he said.

The Democrats acceded to the administration's request to delay a vote on the loan guarantees until January, Harkin said, because there was a feeling that if the loan guarantee battle was highlighted, "it might help those forces in America that are -- that, well, I hate to say it, but I'll say it -- the David Duke-type forces, people like that."

He was referring to the former neo-Nazi and Ku Klux Klan leader who is running as a Republican for the Louisiana governorship.

Like many presidential contenders before him, Harkin said he would move the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Israel's capital.

"I find it more than passing strange that we would be pressuring Israel to give up land for peace, to reach all these agreements, when we know the best thing for peace in the Middle East are more democratic governments," he said.

## ISRAEL EASING CURRENCY RULES TO BRING IN MORE FOREIGN MONEY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- Israel's tough foreign currency regulations will be eased somewhat to facilitate the inflow of foreign currency and stimulate foreign investments, the governor of the Bank of Israel announced at a news conference Thursday.

The proposed changes, subject to Cabinet and Knesset approval, will take effect "in the near future," said Jacob Frenkel, the head of Israel's central bank.

His announcement was received favorably by local investors, but sent prices down on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Especially hard hit were issues traded overseas.

Under the revised rules, Israeli citizens will be allowed to hold foreign currency in Israeli banks and use it to buy and sell shares on overseas stock exchanges.

There will be no limit on the amount of foreign currency that may be held in Israeli banks. But it will have to be purchased with foreign currency, not shekels.

The sources, Frenkel said, might be foreign currency left over from the allowance granted for travel abroad or profits earned by Israelis from investments abroad.

Israelis will be able to withdraw foreign currency for travel, transfer it overseas or cash it in for shekels, he said.

The new rules include lower taxes on profits and easier terms for foreign investors and foreign residents who want to transfer money to Israel.

# **BEHIND THE HEADLINES**

## **THE ROLE OF NON-JEWS IN TEMPLE: SHOULD THERE BE ANY LIMITATIONS?**

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

BALTIMORE (JTA) -- Polly Goldberg attends services regularly. She is co-president of her temple's sisterhood and active in her local Hadas-sah chapter.

And she is a practicing, churchgoing Catho-lic.

Goldberg was at the biennial convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations here last weekend to represent her congregation, Temple Israel in West Lafayette, Ind.

The president of Temple Israel, Brenda Lipp, says it's "important that a leader of a congrega-tion should be Jewish. You should want to be a Jewish leader enough to be Jewish."

When asked about her own background, Lipp says she is Jewish, but admits that she was born to a non-Jewish mother and has never converted, though she was active in synagogue life for years before the Reform movement adopted the policy of patrilineal descent.

Lipp went to Reform Hebrew school as a child, and has always considered herself a Jew because she was confirmed in the 10th grade.

While it is not common for Reform temples to have non-Jews at the helm of a committee, on the board of directors or as the president of the congregation, it is becoming less rare -- and it is an issue that is cropping up frequently in some Reform congregations, where as many as 40 per-cent of members may have non-Jewish spouses.

The overwhelming majority of Reform con-gregations, nearly two-thirds, have no written policy on the participation of non-Jews in temple governance, according to a movement-wide out-reach census conducted from February to May.

Even more, 83 percent, have no written pol-icy on the role of non-Jews in ritual participation.

Decisions about the limits, if any, on non-Jews' participation in those congregations are generally based on the temple's "oral tradition" and evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

### **Most Allow Non-Jews To Join**

According to the survey, conducted by the Commission on Reform Jewish Outreach of the UAHC, 88 percent of Reform congregations pro-vide for the membership of non-Jews as part of a family, usually through the membership of a Jewish spouse.

And 62 percent allow non-Jews to vote on synagogue matters.

An overwhelming majority of 87 percent allow non-Jews to serve on all or most commit-tees, and more than a quarter, 27 percent, do not bar non-Jews from serving as officers.

Over a fifth of Reform congregations allow non-Jews to have an aliyah to the Torah.

Forty-one percent allow non-Jews to light Shabbat candles in temple, and more than 90 percent of Reform congregations allow non-Jews to participate in some way in life-cycle ceremonies.

And, significantly, some three-quarters of Reform congregations have no precise information about the religion of their members because they do not ask for it on membership applications.

"What happens when someone who is fully integrated into synagogue life and we think is Jewish turns out not to be, and six weeks before her child's Bar Mitzvah is told that she cannot light Shabbat candles" in the temple? asked Mimi

Dunitz, the outreach coordinator for the UAHC's Great Lakes region.

Dunitz posed the question at a workshop she led at the biennial titled "Defining the Role of the Non-Jewish Spouse in the Synagogue."

The workshop was so popular it was run twice.

While UAHC President Rabbi Alexander Schindler has urged the creation of a central synod to help delineate the boundaries of Reform Jewish practice, as things stand now, each con-gregation must formulate its own policies regard-ing the role of the non-Jew in synagogue life.

The UAHC "is telling us to fight it out for ourselves," Rabbi Eric Wisnia of Congregation Beth Chaim in Princeton Junction, N.J., said during the workshop.

The subject was clearly an emotional one for the participants.

They grappled with issues like how far temple membership applications should go in asking about religious background and conversion, as they tried to balance the now-acute need for information with the sensitivity of the topic.

When, in the future, the roles of non-Jews in synagogue life are more clearly defined, there will undoubtedly be some people who would like to join, but will not have a place that is involved enough for them in Reform temple life.

Saying "no" to people who want Reform affiliation will not be an easy task for the move-ment, which has made a mission of welcoming the intermarried.

But, acknowledged Minna Katz, a workshop participant from Temple Beth Am in Seattle, "we have to say goodbye to some people."

"Judaism is a line," said Wisnia, "and the question is where we are going to draw it."

## **GROUP URGING BUSH TO RENOUNCE STATEMENT MADE AT SUPREME COURT**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress is urging President Bush to renounce an "outrageous" statement made at the U.S. Supreme Court this week by a lawyer who maintained that the Constitution would permit the declaration of a state religion, as long as nobody was coerced into practicing it.

Charles Cooper, a Washington attorney, made the statement Wednesday when the Supreme Court heard oral argument in a case involving the con-stitutionality of including prayers mentioning God during public school graduation ceremonies.

Cooper, who was an assistant attorney general in the Reagan administration, and U.S. Solicitor General Kenneth Starr jointly argued the case for the Providence (R.I.) School Committee. They maintained that including such prayers does not amount to a government advancement of re-ligion barred by the First Amendment.

But Starr sought to distance himself from Cooper's remarks on the constitutionality of imposing a state religion.

AJCongress President Robert Lifton sent identical letters Thursday to Bush and Starr calling Cooper's remarks "shocking."

Lifton said that since the administration was so closely coupled with the school board's po-sition in the case, it is imperative that the govern-ment "categorically and unequivocally renounce the school board's argument and separate itself clearly and decisively from the line of thought it represents."