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**MULTILATERAL TALKS TO BE EXPANDED
INTO CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL ISSUES**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- The United States is looking to Western Europe and Japan to help it meet the diplomatic and financial burdens of the Middle East peace process.

This is the explanation one Israeli official gave as to why Secretary of State James Baker has apparently decided to expand the planned Arab-Israeli negotiations on regional issues into a major international conference that would also include countries from outside the Middle East.

While the State Department stresses that no final agreement on such a conference has been reached, it is expected to be held next month in Europe, with Baker and the other foreign ministers attending.

The gathering reportedly would be sort of a repeat of the conference held in Madrid, with the countries involved splitting into mini-conferences on five separate regional issues, much as they did with the three sets of bilateral talks that began in Madrid.

Those bilateral talks are now on hold, until an agreement can be reached on where and when to resume them. Baker said that if the parties cannot agree on a venue for the talks, he will suggest one.

Washington is thought to be the site most likely to be selected by Baker, although several sources have cautioned that this is not yet a certainty.

Israel still wants the separate bilateral talks with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to be held in the region, alternating between an Israeli site and Arab locations. But if the Arabs continue to refuse, the Israelis are expected to agree to Washington.

Bush To Meet With Shamir

The Palestinians are demanding that representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization be given entry visas if the talks are held in Washington. And the Syrians are demanding that they be taken off the U.S. list of terrorist nations as a price for their attendance.

The United States has so far refused both demands.

All of these issues may become clearer when Baker returns from Asia next week. But a formal announcement about the next round of peace talks may not be made until after President Bush meets with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Washington on Nov. 22.

Shamir arrived was to arrive in the United States on Friday for major talks in Los Angeles, Boston and Baltimore. After his Nov. 21 address to the annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in Baltimore, he will come to Washington.

The five regional issues to be discussed at the multilateral talks are arms control, water, economic development, the environment and refugee problems. The latter would include not only Palestinian refugees but also those left stateless by the Persian Gulf War.

The Bush administration believes that the Europeans and other outside countries must be

involved in the arms control talks, because they are major suppliers of weapons to the region, and any accord is pointless without their cooperation.

Japan and Europe are also needed to help with whatever financial resources are needed to bring about the various peace agreements.

But another reason for outside involvement, one official explained, is that this is likely to be the most complex set of international negotiations since the end of World War I.

Three sets of bilateral negotiations and five sets of multilateral talks on regional issues, all going on for at least a year, will put an enormous strain on U.S. diplomatic resources, which the Europeans will be asked to share, the official said.

**EGYPTIAN LEADER BLAMES SHAMIR
FOR BLOCKING PROGRESS WITH SYRIA**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak charged Wednesday that Israel is jamming the peace process with negative signals that make it difficult, if not impossible, for him to mediate peace between Israel and Syria.

The Egyptian leader, interviewed on Israel Television's weekly talk show Moked, blamed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who, he said, has reacted with a "no" to every concession asked of Israel.

"Shamir must erase this word from his vocabulary," Mubarak said. Otherwise there might be no negotiations with Syria.

"With declarations that the Golan is not up for negotiations and with the continued settlements, how do you expect Assad to trust you?" asked Mubarak, referring to Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Mubarak, who has never met with Shamir, ruled out a meeting at this time.

He said there would be no point as long as there is no assurance of progress. An unsuccessful summit would result in tension and worsening relations between Egypt and Israel, Mubarak said.

**IDF CRACKS DOWN ON PEACE MARCHES
AS RIVAL PALESTINIAN CAMPS CLASH**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- While the Palestinian peace camp tries to sustain the enthusiasm demonstrated upon the return of its delegation from the Madrid peace conference, the Israel Defense Force has been clamping down on peace demonstrations in the administered territories, as Palestinian advocates and foes of the peace process contend among themselves.

The IDF intervened Wednesday in Hebron when a scuffle developed between Arab peace advocates and their opponents. No one was reported hurt.

Peace rallies, with supporters bearing olive branches, have been staged by supporters of Al Fatah, the mainstream faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The marches are opposed by the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement and its sympathizers. Still, Hamas supporters appear to have lost ground, at least temporarily, to the Palestin-

ian political coalition committed to peace talks.

Palestinians supporting peace have been visiting campuses and trade union centers in the West Bank, drumming up support and forming regional political action committees, which would guide the Palestinian delegates to the peace talks.

In an effort to rally as wide support as possible for the committees, another 25 members, from the Communist Front and a faction of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, have been included in this process.

BUDGET CRISIS WON'T BE RESOLVED BEFORE SHAMIR HEADS FOR THE U.S.

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- As Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir heads for the United States this week, he is leaving behind a dispute among the religious parties in his coalition that threatens the stability and longevity of his Likud-led government.

The National Religious Party refuses to support the annual budget, now in committee, unless "special allocations" for schools of the haredi, or ultra-Orthodox, parties are removed.

The three parties of the haredi bloc vow to oppose the budget if they are denied the special funds, which have long been part of their price for joining the secular coalition.

Aides to Shamir said he would not have time to resolve the crisis before leaving Thursday on a nine-day U.S. trip that will include a meeting with President Bush in Washington next week.

The government therefore is expected to submit an interim state budget to the Knesset in the next few weeks. It would cover at most the first quarter of the new year. But it would at least conform to the requirement that a budget be in place by Jan. 1.

NEXT U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL LIKELY TO HAVE PRESIDENT'S EAR

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- William Harrop, nominated to be the next U.S. ambassador to Israel, is a close friend of President Bush and therefore will likely have a high level of credibility in his new post, officials in the pro-Israel community say.

Harrop, a 62-year-old career foreign service officer, is a tennis partner of the president's. He is expected to be confirmed to replace William Brown before Congress adjourns for the year.

At a routine confirmation hearing Tuesday, Harrop faced easy questioning from the two senators on the Foreign Relations Committee who showed up: Terry Sanford (D-N.C.) and James Jeffords (R-Vt.).

Harrop is perceived as "the president's own man," in that he was personally picked by Bush rather than through any significant screening process, said one official.

An Israeli Embassy official said, "I know Bill Harrop. I met with him. I think he'll be a wonderful ambassador like all the other ambassadors were" in recent years.

Harrop, who joined the State Department in 1954, is not considered an ideologue, although most of his recent assignments have dealt with Africa, including a stint from 1977 to 1980 as deputy assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

Harrop most recently served as U.S. ambas-

sador to Zaire and earlier was chief envoy to Kenya, the Seychelles and Guinea.

He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Tuesday that it is "nonsense" to think he would bring a Third World sensibility and, by extension, a pro-Arab approach to the job.

"I've worked a lot in Africa, but I've also worked in Australia" and Italy, Harrop said after the hearing. "I think you'll find that I am very much aware of the historic relationship with Israel and the importance of maintaining that relationship," he said.

Critical Of Israeli Economy

The weekly Israeli news magazine Jerusalem Report published a story this summer saying that some Israeli officials were nervous about a statement Harrop made to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1978, when he reportedly said he did not consider the Palestine Liberation Organization to be a terrorist organization.

But one source in the pro-Israel community dismissed that statement as not being "anything of any consequence," since the State Department has traditionally argued that the PLO as a whole does not engage in terrorism.

The ambassador-designate has been making the rounds to Jewish groups during the last two months, including a meeting in October with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

At the hearing Tuesday, Harrop vowed to help move Israel "more toward a true-market economy and to try to move beyond some of the historical restrictions on economic activity."

Such "rigidities" as government ownership of companies and import quotas are "only gradually being dismantled," he said. He also called Israel's 11 percent unemployment rate "a cause for worry."

When asked about future U.S. arms sales to the Middle East, Harrop said it is important to "find a way for each country to be satisfied by its own defense and not only be afraid of its neighbors."

"We have a flat commitment to the Israelis to maintain some edge for them militarily in the area," he said, adding that Israel could count on that in the future.

Harrop was born in Baltimore and received a bachelor's degree from Harvard University. He and his wife, Ann, have four children.

Brown, who speaks fluent Hebrew, has been U.S. ambassador since early 1989, when he replaced Thomas Pickering, now the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

EL AL BEGINS FLYING OLIM FROM MOSCOW

TEL AVIV, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- El Al, which flies twice weekly from Moscow to Tel Aviv, has begun to carry immigrants.

The Israeli air carrier, until recently restricted to business people and tourists, can now fill its unsold seats with olim. It landed 20 of them at Ben-Gurion Airport on Tuesday.

It was the first time El Al brought immigrants directly from the Soviet capital. About 100 arrived last week on a direct flight from Moscow by Transair, a new subsidiary of the Soviet state airline, Aeroflot.

Last month, the first direct Soviet immigrant flight was landed here by Aerolicht, a new venture by Israeli businessman Ya'acov Nimrodi using chartered Aeroflot planes.

MISSING FILE USED BY VICHY POLICE TO ROUND UP FRENCH JEWS IS FOUND

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- A long-missing master file that helped the Vichy police round up tens of thousands of French and foreign Jews for deportation to death camps early in World War II has been unearthed in the Ministry of Veterans Affairs, Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld announced Tuesday.

The embarrassing relic of France's collaborationist past had been the object of searches for some 46 years, during which the authorities repeatedly insisted it was lost or destroyed, Klarsfeld said.

The list contains the names and addresses of nearly 150,000 Jews, foreign and native, living in Paris in October 1940, which French police put together for roundup and deportation.

Veterans Affairs Minister Louis Mexendeau announced Tuesday evening that he would order an investigation to determine whether his department made an honest error when it said the file no longer existed or whether it lied.

The file was seized by Judge Jean-Pierre Getti for possible use in the case against wartime collaborator Rene Bousquet, who was secretary-general of the Vichy government and is now under indictment for crimes against humanity for his role in deporting Jews.

The file may also be useful in the investigation of Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner, who commanded the Drancy internment camp outside Paris and is believed to be living in Syria, where he found haven after the war.

France has asked for his extradition, but so far Syria has not responded.

A Chance Discovery

The list was compiled under one of the first anti-Semitic edicts enacted by the Vichy regime, which required every Jew to report to local police headquarters to register themselves as Jews. Failure to comply subjected the Jews to confiscation of their property.

About 80,000 French Jews perished in the Holocaust between 1940 and 1945.

Klarsfeld said that in the late 1970s, rumors surfaced that while most of the "Jewish files" were destroyed during the last days of the Vichy regime, the file on Jews living in Paris in 1940, 1941 and 1942 was still around somewhere.

But wherever he went, Klarsfeld said, he was told by officials that the file was long ago destroyed. "This was a blatant lie," he declared.

It was sheer chance that led to its discovery. He said that while researching the deportation of Jews, he came across the personal directory of an employee of the Veterans Affairs Department which contained an entry titled "Group of Files Concerning Jews and Jewish Children, Paris Police Headquarters, October 1940."

"I asked to see one of the forms and there was no possible doubt," Klarsfeld told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "It was the very file we had been looking for for the past decades.

"Every authority we had approached gave us the same answer: 'The file has disappeared. It has probably been destroyed.'"

Klarsfeld suggested that the file used to arrest and deport Jews was kept at Paris police headquarters until the end of the Nazi occupation in 1944 and then secretly handed over to the Veterans Affairs Ministry.

DUBROVNIK SYNAGOGUE DAMAGED IN CONTINUED SHELLING OF CITY

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- The medieval synagogue in Dubrovnik reportedly sustained war damage of unknown severity as the Serbian-led Yugoslav federal army continued to lay siege this week to the historic Croatian resort city on the Adriatic Sea.

Jewish community officials, telephoning from the Croatian capital of Zagreb, said they could not immediately confirm the extent of damage or the report itself, broadcast by Zagreb radio and television, because there are no direct communications with Dubrovnik.

Both the synagogue, said to date from the 14th century, and the historic Jewish cemetery on the outskirts of Dubrovnik, were damaged in the fighting earlier this month. Both rank among Europe's major Jewish monuments.

Shells or grenades hit the building next door to the synagogue two weeks ago, shattering windows in the sanctuary and the Jewish community headquarters.

They also aggravated damage suffered by the building in a major earthquake in 1979. Last week, Zagreb television showed films of shell damage to the Jewish cemetery, which lies just outside Dubrovnik.

The city, often compared to the French Riviera and left unscathed by both sides in World War II, is regarded as one of Europe's architectural gems. The fierce fighting in and around it has spurred Europe into its most vigorous efforts to end the Yugoslav civil war.

The European Community has been trying to mediate the conflict since it began when Croatia declared its independence on June 25. Twelve cease-fires have been negotiated so far but have failed to hold, and at least 2,000 people have been killed.

WJC Peace Initiative Launched

The World Jewish Congress, meanwhile, has taken an initiative aimed at ending the war.

The WJC said Wednesday that leaders of Yugoslavia's warring republics have agreed to attend a peace conference sponsored by a group of Christian, Jewish and Moslem leaders organized by the WJC.

It will probably be held in Paris but no date has been set, according to Elan Steinberg, executive director of the WJC in New York.

He said the conference was proposed this week by an interdenominational delegation that met with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade and President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia in Zagreb.

The heads of the Orthodox Church in Serbia and the Catholic Church in Croatia have agreed to attend the conference.

The Dubrovnik synagogue, which remains an active house of worship and contains a museum, is the oldest preserved synagogue in Yugoslavia and one of only a handful of medieval synagogues still standing in Europe.

It is located in the center of Dubrovnik's historic Old Town on a narrow alley of steeply rising steps called Zudioska Ulica (Jew Street). At either end is a gate dating from the 16th century, when Jews were locked in the ghetto every night.

The synagogue's present appearance dates from about 1652. It includes a rich baroque interior and a very ornate Ark.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

**JEWISH ACTIVISTS POURING MONEY,
NOT MANPOWER, INTO LOUISIANA RACE**
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Jewish activists are keeping a low public profile in the Louisiana governor's race, for fear of inadvertently helping the candidacy of David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader and one-time neo-Nazi who is running as the Republican candidate.

Duke, a state representative who beat incumbent Gov. Buddy Roemer in the Oct. 19 primary, faces former Democratic Gov. Edwin Edwards on Saturday, in a runoff election that many Jewish organizational leaders fear could catapult a longtime white supremacist into a nationally prominent political position.

But instead of intervening directly in Louisiana politics, Jewish activists individually are furtively funneling tens of thousands of dollars to Edwards or to various Democratic Party groups trying to defeat Duke.

The decision to stay out of Louisiana is being observed by Jewish activists from across the political spectrum, including Mordechai Levy, head of the militant Jewish Defense Organization.

In February 1989, Levy showed up in Louisiana one week before Duke was elected state representative. This time around, he is staying away, not, he says, to avoid giving Duke a punching target, but rather because forces opposing Duke are more mobilized than they were in 1989.

Two years ago, "Jews didn't take his candidacy seriously," Levy charged Monday. "Now you have a lot of local Jews making an effort."

President Bush, like other national politicians, is also staying away from the state. But Bush last week endorsed Democrat Edwards, calling Duke a "charlatan" that he could not possibly support.

Jewish activists, both Democrats and Republicans, are pinning their hopes that Duke will be defeated on a well-orchestrated propaganda campaign that portrays Duke as a racist whose election would harm Louisiana economically.

They are also engaged in a massive get-out-the-vote campaign aimed at the black community, which is projected to account for 20 percent of those voting Saturday.

Raising Thousands Of Dollars

The Edwards campaign refused to say how much money it has received from Jewish sources.

But Steve Gutow, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council, said he is aware of Jews who have given at least \$5,000 to groups helping Edwards.

One activist, who spoke on condition of remaining anonymous, said that Edwards raised about \$36,000 at a fund-raiser last week attended by such major Jewish lay leaders as World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman and American Jewish Congress President Robert Lifton.

Morris Amitay, treasurer of the Washington Political Action Committee, one of the largest pro-Israel PACs, said it gave \$2,000 to a Democratic group helping Edwards, out of concern that Duke would be anti-Israel if elected governor.

Jewish activists are letting their money do the talking, because Jewish organizations are severely limited in how involved they can become in the election campaign.

Jewish groups receiving tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service are barred

from supporting or opposing political candidates, although they are free to criticize views they consider morally repugnant, such as some espoused by Duke.

Jerome Chanes, co-director of domestic concerns at the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said his agency has briefed non-Jewish groups about the dangers Duke poses for Jews, blacks and other minorities.

One activity non-profit groups are allowed to engage in is urging people to vote.

Ted Flaum, director of the Jewish Community Relations Committee of New Orleans, said his agency has been doing just that. He believes that the larger the turnout Saturday, the better Edwards' chances of winning.

Flaum predicted "99.9 percent" of Jews in the state will vote for Edwards.

Jews Would Feel Threatened

Sheldon Beychok, a Baton Rouge Jewish Democratic activist, said he has sent out an anti-Duke fund-raising letter to 3,300 Jews, using a mailing list he bought for an undisclosed price from the National Jewish Democratic Council.

Asked whether there would be a backlash among voters because of Jewish money going to Edwards, Beychok said he sensed "a little hostility, but I don't think it will amount to anything."

As part of his get-out-the-vote effort, especially in the black community, voters are being urged to "recognize racism and anti-Semitism for what it is, no matter how well cloaked it is," he said.

He said that should Duke win, while Jews will feel "threatened and very insecure," only "younger folks" will probably leave the state.

Newspaper columnists are blaming both Republicans and Democrats for planting the seeds that have allowed Duke's candidacy to prosper.

But Richard Stone, professor of law at Columbia University and a Republican Jewish activist who grew up in Louisiana, said the Jewish community bears no part of that blame.

For example, one of Duke's principal planks is opposing affirmative action, a policy enacted in the 1960s with key support from the Jewish community.

Stone argued that Duke's complaint "is not affirmative action" but is rather "that non-white Christians are fouling up America."

"He hates me, a conservative Republican, every bit as much as he hates the Jews at the American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee and the UAHC," Stone said, referring to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and other groups that are "more strongly for affirmative action."

ISRAELI TEAM GOING TO CHINA

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Six of Israel's most prominent business leaders and industrialists will fly to China at the invitation of the Beijing government next week for 10 days of intensive economic discussion, the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot reported Wednesday.

Although Israeli business and trade groups have gone to China before, this is the first time Chinese authorities have publicized such an event.

Meanwhile, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra left Wednesday on a three-week concert tour of the Far East. The orchestra will perform in Japan, Hong Kong and, for the first time, Taiwan, which has no diplomatic relations with Israel.