

**75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR****TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1992****VOL. 70, NO. 72****U.S. AND ISRAEL REPORTED NEAR ACCORD  
ON REPRESENTATION AT REGIONAL TALKS**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 13 (JTA) -- Israel and the United States may be nearing agreement on the question of Palestinian representation in the various working groups on Middle East regional issues scheduled to meet in different capitals next month.

The working groups were established at the multilateral peace conference that convened in Moscow on Jan. 28 and 29, at which Israelis and Arabs were joined by most of the world powers. It was agreed that five working groups would meet in May, after the Passover, Ramadan and Easter holidays.

The Palestinians did not take part in those talks, after the United States and Russia refused to seat delegates they had brought from outside the administered territories, in violation of the ground rules set when the peace process was launched in Madrid last fall.

Those rules recognize Israel's right to refuse to negotiate with Palestinians from East Jerusalem or outside the territories, as well as with members of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The United States proposed relaxing those rules for the meetings of the working groups. But Israel objected strongly and threatened to walk out of the talks if the PLO sends delegates to the working groups.

The two sides have been trying to work out a compromise at private talks in Washington and Jerusalem over the past few weeks, without notable success.

**Excluded From Arms Control Talks**

But now, the United States is relaxing its demand to include Palestinians from abroad and East Jerusalem in the working groups, the Israeli daily Ma'ariv reported Monday.

According to the latest U.S. proposals, no Palestinians would participate in the working group on arms control and regional security, due to meet in Washington from May 11 to 13.

In exchange, the Americans reportedly want Israel to agree to allow Palestinians from the administered territories to participate in the working committees on the environment and water resources.

The environmental discussions, to be held in Tokyo during the week of May 18, will focus specifically on the West Bank and the Gulf of Aqaba.

Both Austria and Turkey have bid to host the water resources talks.

The United States has also proposed that Israel agree to include Palestinians from abroad in the working group on refugees, which will meet in Ottawa from May 13 to 15, and the working group on economic cooperation, set to convene in Brussels at about the same time.

Those delegates would not be identified with the PLO and would not be residents of East Jerusalem, the Americans have promised.

Meanwhile, the bilateral talks Israel is holding with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation are scheduled to resume in Washington on April 27.

**WHITE HOUSE IS NOT ANTI-SEMITIC,  
JEWISH LEADER DECLARES IN ISRAEL**  
By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, April 13 (JTA) -- An American Jewish leader visiting Israel has defended the Bush administration against accusations of anti-Semitism.

There is a "tendency here and in the United States by some leadership and non-leadership to cast policy disagreements in the context of anti-Semitism," Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, told a news conference here Monday after meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The administration's recent disagreements with Israel "should not be viewed as anti-Semitism," Foxman said.

He was referring specifically to the clash between Shamir's Likud government and the Bush administration over the \$10 billion in U.S.-guaranteed loans Israel wants to help resettle new immigrants. The administration has refused to guarantee the loans unless Israel freezes Jewish settlement activity in the administered territories.

"If you ask me specifically whether the debate and the differences between Israel and the United States on the issue of loan guarantees (constitute) anti-Semitism, I'd say no. It's a difference of opinion between two countries on an issue of foreign policy," Foxman said.

The ADL leader blasted what he called "the almost perverse desire to believe" that members of the Bush administration are anti-Semites.

He cited widespread media reports that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker used an obscenity recently to dismiss American Jews, saying that "they don't vote for us anyway."

**'A Desire To Believe The Worst'**

"I wasn't there when the secretary of state did or didn't say what he was accused of," Foxman said. "He personally denied it. So far to this day, those sources have not come forward. He's denied it five times, so where's that whispered source?"

"There is a desire to believe the worst," Foxman said.

While he believes that some of the Bush administration's policies toward Israel are "flawed and mistaken," the ADL leader stressed that America "should not be cast as an enemy."

"I hear the word 'anti-Semitism.' I hear the word 'Auschwitz.' I hear the U.S. Jewish community, in its anger and frustration on a difference of opinion and policy, resort to charges of anti-Semitism."

"I think that's dangerous, because it dilutes the value and the meaning of the word and the experience and its impact," Foxman said.

"I think we owe it to ourselves (to exercise) restraint and to put it in its proper context," he added.

While he called for perspective when viewing U.S.-Israeli relations, Foxman pointed out that true incidents of anti-Semitism have increased significantly during the past year.

A record 1,879 acts were reported in 1991, an 11 percent increase over 1990.

He attributed the rise to "a new tolerance

for such acts within American society. It is politically correct to bash Jews and Israel," he said, adding that anti-Semitism is probably at its highest level since World War II.

"There is a new dimension of anti-Semitism in the United States," Foxman went on. "The incidents are more violent, more intense, and in this last 12-month period, we in the American Jewish community have experienced a murder based on anti-Semitism.

"That death represents a new level of hate, and it has left a scar," Foxman said.

He was referring to the killing of Yankel Rosenbaum, a Hasidic Jewish scholar, in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn last summer during a peak of racial tension after a car driven by a Hasid ran down and killed a black child.

### 'Latent In The Sewers'

A further alarming trend, Foxman said, is the increase of anti-Jewish incidents reported on college campuses for the fourth straight year. In 1991, 60 campuses reported 101 anti-Semitic incidents. Twenty-three of the colleges reported more than one episode.

"A few years back, the doors of college campuses were closed to racism, bigotry and anti-Semitism," he said. "Now that frontier has been broken, and Jewish students are feeling intimidated."

Though the number of incidents has increased, "anti-Semitism has been there all along, latent in the sewers," Foxman said. "The recession and other factors just serve to open up the manhole covers.

"We have to fight this growing trend," he asserted, "to expose it and sensitize decent people against it. Let's put an end to silence and apathy."

### MOSLEM GROUPS' COOPERATION ENABLED DEADLY AMBUSH ON IDF

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 13 (JTA) -- Close cooperation between Moslem fundamentalist guerrilla factions was responsible for the ambush that killed two Israel Defense Force soldiers and wounded five in the southern Lebanon security zone April 6, Israeli authorities have determined.

Operational ties and exchanges of intelligence between the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad were in fact established for this action, which employed Palestinian gunmen, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported Monday.

Hezbollah has an extremely well-organized infrastructure in southern Lebanon and has assisted Islamic Jihad more than once in operations against Israeli targets, Israeli sources say.

The three guerrillas slain in the encounter originally were believed to be Lebanese Shi'ites associated with Islamic Jihad. They have since been identified as Palestinians recruited from widely separated refugee camps and from Iraq.

The three were headbands of the kind worn by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard fighters and Lebanese Shi'ites. Small copies of the Koran were found in their pockets.

It is likely that Hezbollah gave the Islamic Jihad the intelligence necessary to set up the ambush near Huleh village, less than two miles from the Israeli border, Ha'aretz said.

But the vehicle used by the guerrillas indicated the ambush was not exclusively a Hezbollah operation. The Palestinians are believed to have

been instigated by the Shkaki faction of Islamic Jihad.

The leader of the ambush was identified as Adal Kamel Zahar, 24, a resident of the Ein Hilweh refugee camp near Sidon, in southern Lebanon.

The others were Khaled Mohammed Hassan from the Wahidat refugee camp in Jordan and Nazzar Mahadur from the Iraqi city of Basra.

### SHAMIR SUCCEEDS IN SILENCING LIKUD DISCONTENT OVER LEVY DEAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 13 (JTA) -- Disaffection in the top ranks of Likud has been effectively silenced by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Fleuding Likud ministers have quickly deferred to his urging that they set aside their internal squabbling in the interests of the party's overall pre-election image.

The decibel level, which rose to a roar after Shamir made concessions to prevent Foreign Minister David Levy from bolting the party a week ago, has been reduced to a whisper.

Injured pride and frustrated ambitions seem to have been swallowed. Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who was catapulted out of the No. 2 spot in the party's hierarchy by the Shamir-Levy deal, hotly denied reports that he was about to petition the courts to void it.

"Why should I rant and rage?" Arens asked reporters Monday, after the news media quoted sources close to him saying he was fuming over Shamir's "capitulation" to Levy.

"It doesn't do any good anyway. And we are entering into the election campaign, so I do not wish to discuss internal Likud problems in public," Arens said.

The only "source close to me is my wife, and she hasn't said anything," the defense minister added.

The same campaign considerations seem to have muted the normally outspoken housing minister, Ariel Sharon.

A demand was made by the Sharon camp for the same proportional allocation of party power and positions that Shamir promised the Levy camp. But having established his position, Sharon refrained from pressing it, at least until after the elections.

Meanwhile, the Likud and Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i each professed to be pleased by the ruling handed down Sunday by arbitrator Amnon Goldenberg.

He was appointed by both sides to resolve a dispute over Shamir's refusal to honor a 2-year-old agreement to include Moda'i and his supporters in Likud's election slate this year.

Goldenberg held that while Likud was wrong to renege on its signed undertaking, the question is moot because Moda'i and his allies have set up their own party, the New Liberals, to run for election to the Knesset on June 23.

Moda'i met privately with Shamir on Monday and emerged to announce that the matter was closed.

He launched his new party at one of the plushes locations in Tel Aviv last week, seeming to confirm the widely held notion that the New Liberals have large sums of cash at their disposal.

The outgoing finance minister outlined a political platform that stresses economic issues and leaves the questions of peace and territories to a referendum.

## FRENCH COURT DISMISSES ALL CHARGES AGAINST NAZI COLLABORATOR TOUVIER

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, April 13 (JTA) -- The Paris Court of Appeals on Monday dismissed all charges against Nazi collaborator Paul Touvier, former head of the Vichy militia in Lyon, who was accused of crimes against humanity.

The decision was based on lack of evidence in proving that Touvier's acts were crimes against humanity, enacted within a concerted framework to persecute or try to eradicate a people.

The decision to free Touvier, 77, who was twice sentenced to death in absentia after World War II, outraged but did not surprise the former Resistance fighters and other anti-Nazi groups instrumental in bringing him to trial.

It drew a sharp protest from Shimon Samuels, European director of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Touvier, who was a close aide to Lyon Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie, was known for his brutality toward Jews and Resistance fighters.

He personally handed over seven Jews from Rillieux-le-Pape, near Lyon, who were shot in reprisal for the assassination of a Vichy minister by the Resistance.

It is widely known that the highest levels of government, including President Francois Mitterrand, are opposed to the prosecution of Vichy collaborators on grounds that it will open old wounds and "threaten the civil peace."

Although the plaintiffs said they would take the case to a higher jurisdiction, the appeals court decision could prejudice the pending trials of two other high-ranking Vichy officials, Maurice Papon and Rene Bousquet.

Papon, who administered the Bordeaux region, carried out orders from Bousquet, head of the Vichy police, to deport Jews.

### No Proof Of 'Crime Against Humanity'

Most of the counts against Touvier were rejected by the appeals court for lack of evidence.

One concerned his role in the deaths of the seven Jews shot near Lyon in June 1944.

Regarding that, the Paris court said, "Although there is evidence against Touvier, nothing can prove this was a crime against humanity, a crime committed within the framework of a concerted plan in the name of a state, to eradicate civilian populations or to persecute for religious, racial or political reasons."

Touvier, a fugitive since the end of the war, enjoyed the protection of the Roman Catholic clergy in France as well as high political figures.

Sheltered by the church, he emerged from hiding in the early 1970s to be secretly pardoned by President Georges Pompidou.

When the former Resistance fighters learned of the pardon, they filed new suits against Touvier, who promptly disappeared.

His protectors ranged from lowly parish priests to French archbishops.

Touvier remained in hiding in various convents and monasteries until 1989, when he was finally arrested in Nice on the French Riviera, a stronghold of the clerical and political right.

The new charges were pressed by Judge Jean-Paul Getty. But Touvier was freed on bail in the summer of 1991.

The prosecuting attorneys complained repeatedly but in vain of the appeals court's leniency toward the alleged war criminal.

## WIESEL VISITS POLLARD IN PRISON, BECOMING LATEST TO TAKE UP CAUSE

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) -- Elie Wiesel has become the latest Jewish figure to speak out on behalf of Jonathan Pollard.

On April 7, the Nobel Peace Prize winner visited the former U.S. Navy analyst in his Marion, Ill., prison cell, where he is serving a life sentence for spying on behalf of Israel.

And later that evening, Wiesel raised Pollard's plight in his keynote address to the 600 people gathered in Washington to honor the 90th birthday of the Lubavitcher rebbe.

"Let's be honest: What he did wasn't right," the Nobel laureate said.

"The thing was a mess. He shouldn't have done it. But he was punished. And once he was punished, who am I to add to his punishment?" Wiesel said.

"The fact that this man is alone, is in solitary confinement 6½ years already. I thought: 'How is he going to celebrate Passover?'"

Wiesel is raising the issue "only on humanitarian grounds," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "A Jew who is alone in solitary confinement, when the seder is approaching, he deserves that other Jews should comfort him."

During his 2½-hour visit with Pollard, Wiesel discussed the Passover seder and sang songs from the Haggadah. Pollard was "sad but strong," said Wiesel. "Self-controlled. Aware of the tragic situation which is his. To visit him is to visit tragedy."

Wiesel noted that "to visit a prisoner is one of the greatest mitzvot in the Jewish tradition."

The writer had paid the visit at the request of New York activist Rabbi Avi Weiss, one of those leading the fight for Pollard's pardon.

### Senators Sympathetic or Offended?

With them as well as Seymour Reich, former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, whose previous visit to Pollard last year made him the first figure from the mainstream Jewish community to take a public stand for Pollard's release.

Pollard plans soon to appeal last month's federal appellate court ruling denying his request for a new sentencing. He contends the government breached its plea-bargain agreement with him by asking for, and getting, the harshest possible sentence: life, with a recommendation against parole.

Both Weiss and Reich said that Wiesel's remarks at the Washington ceremony brought sympathy from at least three of the attendant senators and a promise of aid from one of them.

But David Luchins, an aide to Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.), disagreed.

"The senators and congressmen were appalled by the inappropriateness of it. This was supposed to be devoted to the 90th birthday of the Lubavitcher rebbe," said Luchins.

Another observer agreed with Luchins. "I don't think it belonged," said U.S. Ambassador Max Kampelman, who has been active in various Jewish causes. "I thought it was in bad judgment. But it's not my business to make an issue -- it's not my dinner."

In New York, Lubavitch officials said they were not bothered by Wiesel's remarks.

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

## LUBAVITCH CELEBRATE REBBE'S 90th AMID DEEP CONCERN OVER HIS HEALTH

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA) -- Crown Heights looked as if it were hosting a Winnebago convention, as 90 Mitzvah Tanks were readied for Tuesday's celebration of the 90th birthday of the Lubavitcher rebbe.

The convoy was scheduled to be dispersed all over the New York metropolitan area, each Mitzvah Tank blaring Hasidic melodies, filled with black-hatted men passing out hand-made "shmura" matzot and instructional pamphlets about the observance of Passover.

It seemed a fitting way to pay tribute to a man who has made the spread of "Torah-true" Judaism his hallmark and turned his Hasidic movement into the best-known Orthodox Jewish organization in the world.

But as birthday celebrations take place throughout the world -- from a small Mitzvah Tank convoy in Australia to a gathering of 12,000 in Tel Aviv attended by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir -- the joy of the rebbe's followers is tempered by apprehension.

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who is not expected to make an appearance at any of the events in his honor, remains seriously weakened following a stroke seven weeks ago that left him partially paralyzed. Those closest to him say they see his health improve every day.

But his condition leaves open the question of who might succeed Schneerson as leader of the influential movement.

Among Lubavitchers, there is no discussion of what might happen if the rebbe died. He has no children and is not known to have groomed an heir. Many followers are convinced that their rebbe is the Messiah, whose imminent arrival Schneerson has been predicting with great fervor over the past year.

In the 42 years of his tenure, the rebbe has almost singlehandedly built what was a small enclave of a few thousand Jews in Brooklyn into an empire that spans the globe and includes an estimated 100,000 loyal adherents.

### Millions Look To Him For Guidance

Chabad-Lubavitch, as the organization is known, has over 1,300 institutions, including synagogues, Chabad houses, yeshivas, day schools, libraries, day camps and drug treatment centers.

The word Chabad is a Hebrew acronym for the principles on which the Lubavitch ethic is based: wisdom, understanding and faith.

The rebbe has sent thousands of families to live and work as his emissaries in the far-flung corners of the world. Some 3,000 families in 1,300 locations from Anchorage to Kinshasa, Zaire, are presently on "shlichus."

Until 1975, the rebbe would meet privately with anyone who wanted to do so -- the meek and the famous, plumbers and heads of state.

He had to curtail his schedule after a heart attack, but instituted the now-famous Sunday ritual instead.

Until his recent stroke, Lubavitchers and non-Lubavitchers alike would wait in line for hours every Sunday in order to spend a moment with the rebbe and be blessed by him.

"He has given his blessing, and wondrous miracles became fulfilled," said Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, one of the rebbe's three most trusted advisers. "People were healed and women, child-

less until then, had babies. It has happened to dozens and dozens of people."

Some of his followers won't make a move without his blessing. They ask him about decisions large and small -- from whether to marry a particular person to whether to buy a new car.

And now they are praying for him. Groups of Chabadniks around the world have coordinated their prayers in an around-the-clock vigil to help speed his recovery. About 15,000 followers are expected at Lubavitcher headquarters in Brooklyn on Tuesday for prayers on the rebbe's birthday.

"Millions and millions of people, many of whom don't belong to any synagogue or movement, look to the rebbe for guidance and support Lubavitch institutions," Krinsky said.

To illustrate his point, Krinsky said that the Crown Heights Hotline, a pay-phone service not officially connected to the Lubavitch organization, had "close to 180,000 calls during the month of March from people wanting to know about the rebbe's health."

"Add that to the many thousands of calls made directly to Chabad, and there must have been millions of calls to see how the rebbe was doing," he said.

His followers "feel this is their leader, their guide, their mentor, most of all, someone who identifies with each and every one of them," Krinsky said.

### JEWISH SOUTH AFRICAN ACTRESS MAKES A HAVEN FOR BLACK KIDS

By Suzanne Belling

JOHANNESBURG, April 13 (JTA) -- Actress Helen Heldenmuth, a prominent figure among South African Jewish women, has turned her home in the upscale suburb of Glenhazel into a refuge for black children fleeing violence in the nearby black township of Alexandra.

According to some witnesses, Alexandra has come to resemble war-torn Beirut. Since the overwhelming pro-reform vote on March 17, rival black groups have been battling in the streets.

Some attribute the outbreak to a sinister right-wing "third force," while others say it is part of a power struggle for a stake in the new South Africa.

Whatever the case may be, Alexandra is, as someone quipped ironically, just "a stone's throw" from Johannesburg's fashionable northern suburbs, where the Jewish community is concentrated.

With white public schools now open to all races, black parents seeking refuge for their children have turned to their white neighbors.

Several Jewish residents have opened their doors to black mothers and children fleeing the township.

Heldenmuth, who conducts drama classes in her home, has turned it into a haven for her black pupils, their mothers and grandmothers.

She did this even while the apartheid laws were in effect and often found herself in court on charges of illegally harboring blacks.

She unofficially adopted Sizie and Amanda Modise, daughters of her black housekeeper, Sophie Modise. They live with Heldenmuth legally now and attend non-racial white schools.

Heldenmuth represents South African Jewish women in a new religious group called Women for Positive Action, which lobbies for racial peace.

The group has met with President F.W. de Klerk and with Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress.