

75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1992

VOL. 70, NO. 97

**MULTILATERAL TALKS WENT SMOOTHLY,
THOUGH NO BREAKTHROUGHS REPORTED**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA) -- The last of five multilateral conferences on individual Middle East regional issues convened in Tokyo this week in a relaxed and cordial atmosphere.

There were no breakthroughs in the talks, which were devoted to ecology, quality of life and how the countries of the region might cooperate to improve the environment.

But there were also no hitches, which was significant since this was the first time Israelis and Arabs sat down together in public to discuss environmental problems they face in common.

In general, the multilateral talks have gone smoothly -- some more than others.

The other four sets of talks took place last week. A meeting in Brussels, chaired by the European Community, dealt with regional economic development. Arms control was the subject of parallel talks held in Washington. In Ottawa, the issue was refugees, and in Vienna, the focus was on water resources.

Israel stayed away from the Brussels and Ottawa talks because non-indigenous Palestinians were allowed to attend. Syria and Lebanon boycotted all five multilateral sessions because of lack of progress in the five rounds of bilateral peace talks that Israel, the Arab states and the Palestinians have held since last November.

Few observers expect much to come out of the multilateral talks until there is real progress in the bilateral phase of the peace process.

Friendly Interchanges Reported

Nevertheless, some positive signs have emerged from the regional talks. In Vienna, for instance, the parties agreed to develop reliable statistics on water usage that would serve the group at its future sessions.

In Ottawa, where the Palestinians clouded the atmosphere by raising the emotionally charged issue of their "right of return" to territory now Israel, the Canadian hosts took over.

In the end, the working group agreed to compile data on the Palestinian and other refugee populations in the region, including Jews displaced from Arab lands, which would serve as raw material for future sessions.

In Tokyo, the environmental talks laid out the issues but did not get to solutions. When Dr. Uri Marinov, head of the Israeli delegation, raised some ideas with Saudi Ambassador Fawzi Abdel Majid Shubukji, the Saudi listened carefully but was non-committal. His government would study the proposals carefully before responding, the Saudi diplomat said.

Marinov and his colleagues chatted freely with Saudi and Yemeni delegates at dinner. Marinov reported that the working sessions also were friendly and that even hard-liners like Tunisia avoided ritual polemics and adopted the businesslike tone set by the Japanese hosts.

Of the 36 delegations participating in the Tokyo talks from all parts of the world, only the Palestinians were vindictive. At working sessions and news briefings, they accused Israel of environmental pillage. They charged that Israel up-

rooted 120,000 olive trees in the administered territories and confiscated 60 percent of the arable land for its own use.

Nevertheless, Marinov's preliminary reports indicated that a sense of purpose was quickly achieved within the working group.

He credited the thorough groundwork established by the Japanese study mission that toured the region earlier this year in preparation for the conference. It submitted a professional report explaining the ecological problems, hazards and opportunities, and stressed the need for regional cooperation to meet them.

Meeting In Lisbon Next Week

The issues raised include untreated sewage flowing into the seas and into underground aquifers; preservation of the delicate ecology of the Red Sea, which demands cooperation among the four bordering states -- Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia; the need to preserve desert flora and fauna; and protection of the millions of migratory birds that fly over the region every year.

The multilateral talks are part of the overall Middle East peace effort being spearheaded by the United States and Russia, which assumed responsibility from the former Soviet Union.

The multilateral phase was kicked off in January at a conference in Moscow, where the assembled countries set up five working groups to meet in separate capitals, each dealing with a specific problem.

Next week, the steering committee for the multilateral talks will meet in Lisbon to assess the accomplishments to date and plan the next round, to be held in the fall.

The steering committee is composed of the United States and Russia and senior officials from the key regional states.

The centerpiece of the peace process, though, is the bilateral phase. Five rounds of bilateral talks have been held since the process began with an opening conference in Madrid last fall. Four rounds of talks were held in Washington, and the next round is expected to take place in Rome sometime after Israel's June 23 parliamentary elections.

Israel nevertheless is continuing to press for an early June session, arguing that its internal elections have nothing to do with the peace process inasmuch as it will be pursued by Israel whatever their outcome.

But the Arab side, especially the Palestinians, oppose a June meeting, particularly as it could enhance the image of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hard-line Likud government on the eve of elections.

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT UNDER FIRE
FOR NEW TILT TOWARD PALESTINIANS**

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, May 19 (JTA) -- The Australian government's sharp tilt toward the Palestinians in the Middle East conflict has brought it under heavy fire from opposition leaders, the Jewish community and the mainstream Australian press.

Prime Minister Paul Keating, clearly on the defensive, tried to justify the change of policy,

which permits high-level dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization, previously banned.

In his first speech to a Jewish organization since replacing Bob Hawke in December, Keating told the 35th biennial conference of the Zionist Federation of Australia that "the Palestine Liberation Organization has played a more positive role in encouraging the peace process over the past six months."

He added that "the restoration to our earlier policy of contact with the PLO is consistent with our long-established aim of encouraging the forces of moderation rather than extremism within the PLO."

The prime minister did not address another key change in Australia's policy, which is to state support for the "right of return" of Palestinian refugees to Israel. But he reiterated his government's opposition to Israeli settlements as "an obstacle to peace."

Keating spoke three days after Foreign Minister Gareth Evans expressed Australia's strongest-ever condemnations of Israel's human rights record during a two-day visit to Israel.

Opposition leader John Hewson, who also addressed the conference, called the renewal of contact with the PLO "extraordinary."

"Just as the PLO has not earned a place at the negotiating table in the Madrid peace process, so too it has not earned a place in bilateral relations with Australia," Hewson declared.

Hewson called the Keating government's attitude to Israeli settlements unfair. The opposition parties "do not believe it is fair to expect Israel to make unilateral concessions that compromise its security," he said.

'Policies Made On The Run'

A senior government member and former minister, Clyde Holding, criticized Evans, arguing that no Australian parliamentarian is in a position to give advice to a country which has lived with terrorism since its beginning.

Representatives of the Labor Friends of Israel organizations in the five Australian states criticized Evans' "policies made on the run."

Editorials in the mass-circulation daily The Herald-Sun and the major national newspaper, The Australian, blasted the changes in government Middle East policy.

The Australian observed that "the Australian government is now less sympathetic than Egypt to Israel's problems." The Herald-Sun maintained that "by publicly supporting the PLO, Australia makes the job of moderate Palestinians more difficult."

Isi Leibler, co-chairman of the Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress said, "Sen. Gareth Evans' latest critique of Israel is ill-conceived, ill-timed and leaves one at a complete loss as to what he hoped to achieve."

Leibler argued that raising the "non-issue" of a return of Palestinian Arabs to Israel "can only serve to alienate Israel and seriously undermine the delicately poised peace talks currently under way."

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry branded the policy changes as counterproductive.

Council President Leslie Caplan said Evans "exhibited an extraordinary double standard by criticizing Israel and praising for its moderation the totalitarian regime in Iran within 24 hours."

The president of the Zionist Federation of Australia, Mark Leibler, attacked Evans as "provocative and one-sided."

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL WON'T COMPLY WITH ARAB BOYCOTT By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, May 19 (JTA) -- The Arab League's trade boycott of Israel has been rebuffed by Australia's largest business association.

The New South Wales Chamber of Commerce offered "categorical assurances" last week that it will no longer issue negative certificates of origin, which facilitate the boycott.

The chamber was sharply criticized by Bob Carr, leader of the opposition Labor Party, for issuing a document recently which not only contained the compliance stamp of the Arab boycott office but listed "Palestine" as one of the destinations for which the boycott stamp is required.

Carr, who is president of Labor Friends of Israel, blasted the chamber for listing Palestine and refusing to acknowledge the "moral obnoxiousness" of complying with the boycott.

David Taylor, executive director of the chamber, said he "can only sincerely apologize" for the inclusion of the word "Palestine," which he attributed to "unacceptable behavior" by a "very junior clerical assistant."

He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he "sincerely regretted the distress that the incident has obviously caused."

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce of Victoria state also issued a boycott compliance certificate this week. No official response was received, however, following a meeting of the president of the chamber with representatives of Australia/Israel Publications.

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry has called on Foreign Minister Gareth Evans to "take whatever action is necessary" to end compliance with the Arab boycott.

Leslie Caplan, president of the council, said in that connection that the federal government has made clear that chambers of commerce have no authority from the state to comply with the boycott or give the impression that the Australian government concurred with it.

REcuperating REbbe GETS OUTDOORS By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA) -- Twelve weeks after suffering a debilitating stroke, the Lubavitcher rebbe was taken in his wheelchair Tuesday to visit the newly renovated Lubavitch library building, adjacent to the Hasidic movement's headquarters at 770 Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood.

This marked the first time since the stroke that Rabbi Menachem Schneerson left the headquarters, where he resides.

"He also spent considerable time outdoors, getting some fresh air," reported Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, the rebbe's spokesman. "It's extremely gratifying to see."

While Schneerson is reading his mail, he is not yet dictating replies, according to Krinsky. He was unable to speculate when the rebbe would resume his public appearances and addresses.

Because of the U.S. Memorial Day holiday, the JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published on Monday, May 25.

**POLITICAL JOCKEYING PEAKS IN ISRAEL
AS DEADLINE FOR FILING LISTS ARRIVES**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA) -- A classic of Israeli political folklore concerns the leaders of three haredi parties who reached agreement shortly before elections to run as a joint list.

They enter a taxi in Tel Aviv bound for the Knesset building in Jerusalem to file their list with the Central Elections Committee. When they get there, however, the three emerge red-faced with rage and proceed to file separate lists.

The lesson is that political alliances in Israel are too fragile even to survive a one-hour drive, and it applies by no means only to the ultra-Orthodox.

But they were in the limelight this week as the Tuesday midnight deadline approached for filing party slates for the June 23 elections.

Marathon negotiations continued in the religious township of Bnei Brak late Monday night where two venerable sages had been trying for weeks to reach an agreement that would merge the Hasidic Agudat Yisrael and the Mitnagged Degel HaTorah parties.

Rabbi Eliezer Schach, Degel's 96-year-old mentor, and Rabbi Pinchas Menachem Alter of Agudat Yisrael were deadlocked over Degel's demand for a 50-50 split of power and patronage in party institutions, though it was willing to accept the second and fifth spots on a joint election slate.

Their bargaining was complicated by suspicions.

Two weeks ago, another haredi figure, Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, who serves as absorption minister and is a disciple of Rabbi Schach, announced he would start a new religious party called Moriah, which would run independently.

Since that announcement, Peretz and his rabbinical mentor, Schach, came under ferocious pressure from all the other haredi parties to back down.

NRP Jolted By Levinger Bid

There was a sigh of relief when Peretz announced last week that he was abandoning the idea of a new party and would retire from politics to devote his time to Torah study.

But many observers suggested that having experienced the political high life, and plainly developing a taste for it, he may yet find a way to hang on, perhaps on the joint Agudat-Degel list.

If all is not well among the haredim, it is not much better among the Zionist Orthodox.

Their veteran party, the National Religious Party, was jolted last week when Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a firebrand leader of the Gush Emunim settlement movement, announced he would run at the head of his own party.

Levinger said he hoped to bring about a fusion of Moledet and Tehiya, two mixed religious-secular parties on the far right. If he fails, he said, he will go it alone.

Either way, the news is bad for NRP.

Levinger, though a controversial figure, has a large following among the religious settlers in the West Bank, precisely the group whose loyalty NRP has been trying to retain by constantly redrafting its own election platform to meet the demands of its hard-line wing, led by Hanan Porat.

They include the immediate annexation of

the West Bank and Gaza Strip and renunciation of the Camp David accords.

The sharp disagreements in Israeli politics are not always limited to words. A scuffle on the fringe of a crowd listening to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Petach Tikva on Saturday night was the first display of violence in the election campaign.

Likud loyalists clashed with supporters of the Labor Party and the left-wing Meretz bloc.

Dozens Of New Parties

Meanwhile, political jockeying reached a peak shortly before the midnight Tuesday deadline for filing party lists with the Central Election Committee.

Aharon Abuhatzzeira and his Tami faction have petitioned Likud's Court of Honor to force the party to honor its 1990 agreement with Tami.

Abuhatzzeira claims he was promised 12th place on the Likud election list and a "safe" spot for a second Tami man. He has threatened to sue in the district court if he does not get satisfaction from the party.

Meanwhile, a long line of splinter parties and individuals formed outside the Central Election Committee offices Monday and Tuesday, each clutching the required 1,500 signatures and 23,000 shekels in cash -- about \$9,600 -- the fee for filing their candidacy for the 13th Knesset.

The fee is forfeited if the list fails to scale the threshold for gaining a seat, which this year is 1.5 percent of the total vote. About 2.2 million votes are expected to be cast next month, which means a list must poll about 42,000 votes to enter the Knesset, almost double the number required in the last elections.

Some unexpected names have cropped up in equally unexpected places.

Mayor Eli Landau of Herzliya occupies the second spot on the list of Yitzhak Moda'i's new Liberal Party.

Moda'i, who is finance minister in the outgoing government, was dropped by Likud. Landau, a member of the Likud Executive Committee, subsequently resigned from the party.

After 22 years in Likud, Landau said, he thinks the party is on the wrong track. Landau, like another popular Likud mayor, Shlomo Lahat of Tel Aviv, has grown more dovish over the years.

He said Monday he would better be able to work for peace within Moda'i's new party. The finance minister is a "gifted man," Landau told reporters.

Shakdiel Joins Biton's Party

Another new name is Leah Shakdiel, a dovish religious activist from Yeroham, who appeared unexpectedly in the No. 2 spot on Charlie Biton's new Hatikvah list.

Shakdiel formerly belonged to the Labor Party and was touted as a candidate of Meretz. Surprisingly, she joined forces with the Biton, formerly a Black Panther, more recently a Hadash Communist and most recently an independent member of Knesset.

The upcoming elections may also be graced by a taxi-drivers' party, a Nature Party dedicated to harmony between man and his environment and a list called Tzipor (Bird) led by a peanut wholesaler.

The Temple Mount Faithful, who believe in rebuilding the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, also filed a list.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: UJA EXPLORING HOW FEDERATIONS CAN RAISE MORE MONEY FROM DONORS By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA) -- At a time when many federations are contracting the size of their professional staffs, one Jewish demographer is recommending that they pump up their fund-raising muscle.

"We're in tough times, and everyone wants to cut their sales force. How insane!" Gary Tobin told a workshop Monday at the United Jewish Appeal's National Campaign Conference.

Tobin, who is director of Brandeis University's Center for Modern Jewish Studies, said a just-released market research analysis he prepared for UJA indicated that the UJA-federation system, despite having raised over \$1 billion last year, is getting a lower and lower share of Jewish philanthropic dollars.

What is needed, he said, is to both "get back to the basics" and dramatically rethink the way UJA raises funds.

And for federations to solicit funds properly, he said, will take more professional staff.

"If we continue to brag about how low our overhead is while the proportion who give is declining, something is wrong," Tobin said.

"Our efficiency is virtually unknown to donors. We can afford another 4 or 5 percent in terms of our fund-raising overhead," he said.

According to the Chronicle of Philanthropy, UJA's fund-raising costs represent about 5 percent of the amount it raises, and the largest local federations spend between 5 and 10 percent on fund raising.

Tobin said the campaign needs to search aggressively for new donors, through such means as direct mail, but that it also needs to use a more personal approach with those who are already giving.

"Most major donors are not being solicited face to face," the traditional method used by UJA, he said. "Follow-up has broken down dramatically."

Must 'Humanize The Giving'

At the same time, he said, donors should be solicited not just by their peers, but by a lay-professional duo -- a suggestion that will require more staff.

He said the UJA-federation system must do more to make donors feel good. "There needs to be more stroking -- not in the form of plaques and dinners and public recognition, but much more personal, one-on-one meetings."

And there should be a stronger effort to let donors know about the people their gifts help, particularly at the local level.

"The symphony is taking donors out for lunch with the cellist. If we don't humanize the giving, we're going to lose the battle," he said.

In what he described as his most controversial recommendation, Tobin said the Jewish community has to "reintroduce standards" as to what constitutes a good gift.

Donors say, "No one can tell me I have to give 5 percent or 10 percent," said Tobin. "But someone has to break out of the tautology where donors say, 'I give what I think is right.'"

"At most communities, top-level givers are stuck where they are" and not increasing their gifts, said Tobin. He said this is because giving levels are often suggested on the basis of what

others contribute rather than according to a universal standard.

Tobin's research verified at least as many truisms about the UJA as it disputed.

"In spite of all the assaults, support of Israel as the core of Jewish identity remains strong. Even those who deny they care about Israel, they deny it vociferously," he said.

"Israel remains the primary motivator. If Israel were removed from the central campaign, it would collapse tomorrow," he said.

Tobin observed that UJA still "has the highest name recognition" of any Jewish organization and suggested that local federations rethink their removal of "UJA" from their names.

Tobin said his recommendations should be implemented immediately -- a time frame that in an institutional context like UJA means over the next three to eight years, he said.

Some of the "new and innovative ideas" listed for the 1993 UJA campaign by Joel Tauber, the Detroit industrialist sworn in Tuesday as national campaign chairman, seem to reflect the report's findings.

"We are serious about getting 10,000 people to Israel on missions," said Tauber. That would represent a 50 percent increase from this year's turnout on the missions, reflecting Tobin's belief that "missions work."

Tauber also promised more intensive efforts to solicit from top donors.

"There are 800 gifts \$100,000 and up, and about 300 to 400 more should be there. We will be analyzing those cards precisely, and developing a plan for each individual," he said. He added: "There's now more money being raised from Jews by non-Jewish causes, and we must stop it."

NEO-NAZIS CONVENE IN MADRID, DEMAND 'FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION' By Judith Lew

MADRID, May 19 (JTA) -- Some of the most notorious neo-Nazis of Europe and North America convened here last weekend demanding the legalization of national socialist parties in the name of "freedom of expression."

The convention was organized by the Spanish Circle of Friends of Europe, known by its acronym CEDEADE. It drew no more than 30 or 40 people and media attention was scant.

But the speakers list included German-born Ernst Zundel of Toronto, who was convicted under Canada's anti-hate laws for distributing material denying the Holocaust.

Others were Manfred Roeder, sentenced to 13 years in prison for terrorist activities in his native Germany, and Thies Christophersen, a German who distributes Nazi pamphlets in Denmark.

Spain was selected as the site of the gathering apparently because it is one of the few countries in Europe which lacks a law banning symbols, political parties and movements advocating race hatred. Nevertheless, Spain has been a constitutional democracy since the death of its fascist dictator, Francisco Franco, in 1975.

The Madrid municipality previously banned meetings organized by CEDEADE. This time the neo-Nazis were ordered to adjourn early to avoid crowds of soccer fans leaving an important match across the street.

CEDEADE is organizing a political party intended to be a coalition of extreme right-wing elements in Spain, to run in the next parliamentary elections scheduled for 1993.