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**ISRAEL READY TO CONTINUE TALKS
IN WASHINGTON IN LATE AUGUST**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 27 (JTA) -- After an initial reluctance, Israel appears ready to accept the resumption of the Middle East peace talks in Washington toward the end of August.

The final details will likely be announced during Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to the United States in the second week of August, according to highly placed sources in Jerusalem.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said last week he would like to see the talks resume in Washington on Aug. 10, but the Israelis did not want the negotiations to coincide with Rabin's first meeting with President Bush since taking office.

Jerusalem sources confirmed that Rome, which had previously been agreed upon as the venue for the talks, was now unlikely to serve that role, at least for the present round.

Reasons cited for the change of location include Italy's inability to handle the logistics and security arrangements for the talks, which are to take place sooner and continue longer than originally proposed.

It has also been suggested that Baker may want the talks in the U.S. capital so he can monitor them if, as expected, he soon takes charge of the Bush re-election campaign.

The Israelis, who had long favored a venue close to the Middle East for symbolic and practical reasons, are now seeing Washington in a more favorable light, as well.

Arafat Could Enscense Himself In Rome

In Rome, the sources pointed out, Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir Arafat might ensconce himself at the embassy the PLO maintains there, which would inevitably embarrass the Israeli side. In Washington, on the other hand, this would not happen, since Arafat would presumably be refused a visa by the Americans.

Israel says that after a further round in Washington, which could last up to three weeks, the talks should then shift close to the region. That would allow virtually constant negotiation sessions, interspersed by brief visits home to consult with policy-makers.

But government officials may no longer be satisfied with Rome. They may hold out for Cairo -- a new option recently offered by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak -- in the anticipation that Arafat would be discouraged from appearing there.

On the more substantive question of Palestinian representation at the talks, cabinet sources disclosed Monday that the prime minister had told Baker that he, like his predecessor Yitzhak Shamir, would cleave closely to the "Madrid Formula."

That means he will not agree to the participation of Palestinians from East Jerusalem, including Faisal Husseini.

The Israelis have insisted that East Jerusalemites be ruled out since they view Jerusalem as an integral part of Israel and thus not part of any autonomy plan.

The new Labor government has, however,

indicated flexibility on the question of participation of "diaspora" Palestinians in the multilateral negotiations, which take place in five separate working groups.

Under the Likud government, Israel boycotted two of the groups, those on economics and on refugees, when the co-sponsors, America and Russia, invited diaspora Palestinians to take part.

The cabinet sources said Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had stressed last week, in their talks with Baker, that they will insist that the autonomy talks focus on a "self-governing authority," as prescribed in Camp David accords. They indicated they would reject the idea of a "legislative assembly," as demanded by the Palestinians.

The sources said Baker had "a harsh conversation" with Hussein and the Palestinian leadership on this point.

Israel sees such an assembly as part of a state-in-the-making, and is determined not to allow autonomy to lead inexorably to Palestinian statehood.

The Israeli sources said there could be no agreement to hold elections in the territories unless and until this key issue had been agreed upon. Thus far, they indicated, there was no such agreement, though they seemed gratified that the American position appeared to back Israel.

The sources made it clear that the question of American loan guarantees for Israel had not been resolved, despite the warming atmosphere between Washington and Jerusalem.

The sources indicated the United States is not yet satisfied with the extent of the Israeli building freeze in the administered territories. Rabin had sought to explain to Baker that the new government was limited by law as to what it could legitimately freeze.

**ORGANIZED AMERICAN JEWRY SHIFTING
IN WAKE OF RABIN VICTORY IN ISRAEL**By Cynthia Mann
States News Service

WASHINGTON, July 27 (JTA) -- The landscape of the organized American Jewish community may be shifting in the wake of Yitzhak Rabin's overwhelming victory in Israel. But it is too soon to tell exactly how all the players and organizations will shake out.

Americans for Peace Now, once considered marginal for its outspoken dovish views, has applied for membership in the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the mainstream umbrella group that confers automatic legitimacy in the organized Jewish world.

At the same time, charges have surfaced in the Israeli press that Tom Dine, executive director of AIPAC, the powerful pro-Israel lobby, and Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents, were being targeted by the new Rabin government because of their overzealous identification with former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Still, most leaders of Jewish groups see the ground shifting only slightly. No one is predicting seismic shakeups.

These leaders say it is a misunderstanding

and a demeaning of organized American Jewry to assume there will be a wholesale change in leadership and operation because of a change in Israeli government and policies.

But they do acknowledge that people and groups with longstanding personal and political ties to the Labor party will have increased access to and influence at the centers of Israeli power. And those who were part of the Shamir government's inner circle may find themselves closer to the fringe.

They also predict Rabin's relationship to the United States, light-years closer and more comfortable than that of his predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, augurs a far less prominent role for the groups as a U.S.-Israel mediator.

"The Rabin election validates our position and views," said Peter Edelman, president of Americans for Peace Now, explaining his group's application to the Conference of Presidents. "We feel we could be comfortable in any mainstream organization because our views are mainstream."

"People who have been associated with Labor more directly, and have pushed the peace process, have been (legitimized) and will be somewhat more at the center of things," he added.

Meanwhile, AIPAC and the Conference, both of which maintained extremely close ties to the Shamir government, are expected to adjust their rhetoric to reflect the new Israeli government and its policies, and to continue doing business more or less as usual.

Most Jewish leaders have rallied to the defense of the directors of those organizations. They say the rumors about the precariousness of their positions are just that.

Bella Reassures Hoenlein

Yossi Beilin, new deputy foreign minister, was moved by the imbroglio to write a letter to Hoenlein last week, denying he had a "negative attitude" toward him and Dine.

"There is absolutely no basis in reality whatsoever for claims that (such) changes will take place," said Robert Lifton, president of the American Jewish Congress. "It's a mistake to believe the organized community is on a leash and that change there will result in a change here."

Lifton noted that AJCongress had been out of favor with the Shamir government for its pro-peace positions, but said it is unclear what the changes mean for the organization's fortunes. "The (new) Israeli government won't bestow a wreath on us. But there is no question they'll feel friendly or more warmly disposed to those with the same position."

"People have overblown who was and who wasn't an apologist for the Shamir government," said Rabbi David Saperstein, co-director of the liberal Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

"There was some excess from time to time, but in general people had a job to do and they would have done it no matter who was in office. AIPAC has to sell an aid package to Congress," said Saperstein. "But I never saw Tom Dine out there defending Gush Emunim. He may have explained some of their policies but he didn't endorse them."

"If Labor wants to play politics, that's a different story," he said. "But fighting for foreign aid remains a major undertaking and AIPAC remains as important as ever."

The talk about changes at the top of AIPAC and the Conference is "nonsense," said Tom

Smerling, director of the moderate left-wing Project Nishma. "Israelis don't understand these aren't political patronage jobs."

Smerling acknowledged, however, that the Israeli government has a natural ability to "withhold access and confer legitimacy." Nishma, which has close associations with politicians who are part of the new government, may benefit.

The change in government "gave people license to say what they haven't been able to say before (but the talk) is idle Beltway Jewish gossip and it doesn't serve the community," said Abraham Foxman, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League.

'No Coup D'etat'

"Sure there are differences," he added. But they have "been blown totally out of proportion. There will be no bloodletting or coup d'etat."

"The American Jewish community's support for Israel is a continuum," he said, "whether it is the Zionist socialism of Ben Gurion, or the Zionist revisionism of Begin or the Zionist pragmatism of Rabin."

For Henry Siegman, executive director of the AJCongress, the impact of the election goes beyond the fortunes of the individual organizations to affect their collective role.

The new prime minister feels he understands American culture, knows how the U.S. political system works and knows the players, said Siegman, which means all the groups that have helped mediate in the past will be become more marginalized.

Rabin, said Siegman, not only "tends not to place too much importance on the political role" of organized Jewry, but "he doesn't feel he needs the Conference and AIPAC to achieve his goals. On the contrary, he sees them to a degree as an impediment."

Unlike Shamir, added Siegman, Rabin has excellent relations with the administration and does not need the kind of "intercession" provided by the Jewish leadership establishment.

And that, says Siegman, is a healthy development. "The need for the Israeli government to rely on the intercession of the Jewish community is a sad admission of failure" of the "special relationship" Israel is said to maintain with the United States.

But the Conference's Hoenlein vehemently disputed the notion that the groups' profile and importance would decline and insisted that Rabin appreciated their significance. To buttress his point, he cited a two-hour conference call from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres last week to apprise the Conference of developments during Rabin's trip to Egypt.

American Jewry Not An Intermediary

"The American Jewish community doesn't play an intermediary role," he said. "It represents an American Jewish constituency and advocates on behalf of Israel."

"It is not an appendage to the Israeli government," he continued. "When the Israeli government changes it doesn't change (our) function any more than when the U.S. administration changes."

Hoenlein also repudiated charges of being too close to Shamir's inner circle and its policies. "We don't make policies, we reflect them. Our position was never to advocate. It's to reflect all views and the umbrella groups will continue to function and to represent a consensus," he said.

DINITZ RE-ELECTED WZO CHAIR, HANDILY DEFEATING HIRSCH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 27 (JTA) --- The 32nd Zionist Congress re-elected Simcha Dinitz as chairman of the World Zionist Organization on Monday. Dinitz, of the Labor Zionist movement, received 382 votes against the 101 cast for his opponent, Rabbi Richard Hirsch of the Reform Zionist movement.

The secret ballot vote followed a long day of behind-the-scenes negotiations between Labor and the Reform movement. Labor sought for Hirsch to withdraw his candidacy and lead his movement into a wall-to-wall coalition with the other parties in the WZO. These efforts, however, ended in an impasse.

Nonetheless, well-placed sources predict that a wall-to-wall coalition will eventually be set up, embracing the Reform movement -- represented at the Congress primarily by the Association of Reform Zionists of America -- and its allies.

Hirsch only received some 30-odd votes from delegates outside his own camp, which included his own movement and Ratz and Shinui, both components of the left-wing Meretz bloc in the Knesset. Observers pointed to this as an indifferent showing for Hirsch.

In all, 495 ballots were cast, representing 85 percent of the 585 eligible votes.

Dinitz, a former Knesset member and ambassador to Washington, thanked the delegates and said he would strive to represent the diversity of opinion and ideas within the Zionist movement.

RABIN EASILY SURVIVES FIRST NO-CONFIDENCE KNESSET VOTE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 27 (JTA) -- The Rabin government comfortably survived its first test in the Knesset, defeating a series of no-confidence motions by a vote of 59 to 48.

With the survival of the governments a foregone conclusion, interest during the voting on Monday centered around the vote of the United Torah Judaism party.

The three of its four members who belong to Agudath Yisrael absented themselves from the vote, even though one of the motions had been presented by their fourth colleague, Rabbi Avraham Ravitz. Ravitz was acting on the orders of the Degel HaTorah sage, Rabbi Eliezer Schach.

Political observers said the vote signaled the effective split of United Torah Judaism into its constituent parties, Agudah and Degel.

It also indicated the severe weakening of Schach's authority as the primary political leader of the haredi, or ultra-Orthodox, community. His loss of influence over Agudah comes after the Sephardi Shas party, which he had helped found, joined the Labor coalition against his express orders.

The motions in the Knesset dwelt mainly on the government's announced cuts in housing in the administered territories.

Moshe Katsav of the Likud charged that the United States had "helped Labor get elected and now you're paying them back."

Rafael Eitan of Tsomet, which despite Labor's efforts did not join the coalition, said Rabin's distinction between "political" and "security" settlements was meaningless.

Every settlement built in Israel since the

beginning of the state was political, he said.

On behalf of the National Religious Party, Hanan Porat asserted that the Jewish settlement drive was "unstoppable" and added that this government would go down in history as a shame to the nation for having tried to stop it.

Ravitz of United Torah Judaism dwelt on the appointment of Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni as minister of education. He quoted copiously from her public statements to prove her abiding contempt for religious tradition. Aloni's ministerial post is at the center of Schach's opposition to the Labor government.

Finally, Rehavam Ze'evi of Moledet charged the Rabin government with "surrendering to terrorists" in its handling of a standoff with Palestinian students at A-Najah University last week.

In response, Rabin lashed out at the Likud for criticizing him for favoring "land for peace." Likud, he said, had been the party "that returned every grain of sand in Sinai" in return for peace with Egypt. The premier noted that many thousands of homes would continue to be built in the territories -- mainly because he could not prevent them.

GERMANS KILLED ISRAELI ATHLETES AT MUNICH OLYMPICS, WIDOW CHARGES

By Henrlette Boas

AMSTERDAM, July 27 (JTA) -- The Dutch-born widow of one of the 11 Israeli athletes killed during the Munich Olympic games in 1972 has stated there is evidence that nine of the Israelis were killed by bullets fired by the German security police.

Making her accusations during an interview with the Dutch daily Het Parool, Ankie Spitzer-Rechess said that 32 relatives of the murdered athletes are now planning to file suit against the German government.

Spitzer-Rechess said that her charges -- which have been repeatedly denied by the West German authorities -- are based on a secret report which was recently smuggled out of Munich by a German sympathetic to Israel. The report was subsequently made available to the next of kin.

Early on the morning of Sept. 5, 1972, eight Palestinian terrorists belonging to the "Black September" group entered the apartment complex where the Israeli athletes were staying. One of the Israelis was immediately killed and another was fatally wounded. Nine athletes were later taken hostage. Among them was the late husband of Spitzer-Rechess, Andre Spitzer, who was the coach of the Israeli fencing team.

After protracted negotiations with the German authorities, the Palestinians and their hostages were taken to an airfield in the vicinity of Munich. From there, the Palestinians had been promised, they and their hostages were to be flown to Cairo.

But instead, the West German security police who had been stationed there opened fire on the terrorists. In the ensuing exchange of gunfire, all nine hostages, five of the Palestinians and one West German security policeman were killed.

The West German government later offered \$57,000 to each of the widows of the Israeli victims and \$30,000 to each orphan.

A journalist working for Dutch newspaper in Israel, Spitzer-Rechess said she never accepted any payment from the German government.

\$42 MILLION TO RESTORE AUSCHWITZ SITE, CATHOLIC-JEWISH DELEGATION TOLD

By Ruth E. Gruber

OSWIECIM, Poland, July 27 (JTA) -- The deputy director of the Auschwitz museum told a group of leading American Jews and Catholics that the facility needed an estimated \$42 million in order to carry out essential restoration and maintenance work.

The American delegation was in Poland from July 20 to 24 at the invitation of the Polish Episcopate for a series of talks with church and secular officials on interreligious initiatives and Polish-Jewish ties.

"We have 150 buildings (and) 250 ruins" to care for, Krystyna Oleksy told the interreligious delegation. She said the \$42 million figure came from a report prepared by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, which has been working to preserve the Auschwitz and Birkenau death camps and their collection of artifacts.

"For 47 years, the museum was financed by the Polish government. We are doing our best, but there is not enough money so that our plans can be realized," Oleksy said.

The Lauder Foundation is hoping to obtain the funds from Western European governments, with half requested from Germany.

In addition to planned changes in the museum's exhibitions -- which will reflect the largely Jewish composition of Auschwitz-Birkenau victims -- Oleksy said maintenance and conservation were necessities.

"We urgently need heating, temperature and humidity control in the buildings," she said. "This is our most essential need at the moment."

Exhibits In Danger Of Decay

Many of the exhibitions, particularly the poignant displays of belongings left by Auschwitz victims, are in danger of decay after nearly 50 years.

In addition to Auschwitz, the American delegation visited Warsaw, Cracow and Czestochowa in what the group described as "a pilgrimage of faith, remembrance and reconciliation."

It was considered the highest-level delegation of American Jews and Catholics ever to visit Poland.

Included in the group were representatives of the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and Cardinals John O'Connor of New York and Bernard Law of Boston.

Rabbi Jack Bemporad of Lawrence, N.Y., and Baltimore Archbishop William Keeler co-led the 25-member delegation, which was coordinated by the newly founded Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn.

A key goal that emerged from the visit was a determination to overcome the stereotypes which Jews as well as Polish Catholics still hold about each other and which form a barrier to bettering Polish-Jewish relations.

"I feel a certain obligation to explain to the Jewish community that their perception of Poles has to be changed," said Bemporad. "One of the great contributions of this trip was to open our eyes to how much the Poles were victimized by the Nazis.

The delegation had a series of what they

called "extensive" and "fruitful" talks with senior church leaders, who were led by Archbishop Henryk Muszynski, head of the Polish Episcopate's Commission on Catholic-Jewish Relations.

The group's visit to the Black Madonna shrine at the Jasna Gora monastery in Czestochowa -- Poland's holiest Catholic shrine -- was of particular significance to their Polish hosts.

"The presence of our Jewish brothers at Czestochowa was a sign of their effort at understanding," said Muszynski. "They realized they can't understand the other side without understanding what the other side holds sacred. I am in their debt for this."

The shrine was also the site where several hundred Jews were detained after the Czestochowa ghetto was liquidated by the Nazis in September 1942.

Delegation member Rabbi Leon Klenicki, director of the department of interfaith affairs of the Anti-Defamation League, said the trip had included "a discussion of concrete plans." It was "not just a ceremonial visit," he said.

Among the initiatives announced was a plan to establish a formal working relationship between the Sacred Heart interreligious center and the new convent and Center of Information, Meetings, Dialogue, Education and Prayer under construction near the Auschwitz death camp.

The U.S. delegation also discussed with the Polish Episcopate a number of projects -- including exchange programs and the translation into Polish of books about Jewish history and interreligious dialogue -- aimed at improving Polish-Jewish relations.

ISRAEL HONORS POLES' WARTIME HEROISM, OTHER WARTIME ANNIVERSARIES MARKED

By Ruth E. Gruber

WARSAW, July 27 (JTA) -- In a ceremony last week in the southern Polish town of Lancut, Israel honored 26 Poles with the Righteous Among the Nations Award in recognition of their efforts during World War II to save Jewish lives.

The ceremony coincided with the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liquidation of the Jewish ghetto in nearby Rzeszow in July 1942.

In a separate commemorative ceremony also held last week, a plaque was erected in memory of the German Count Klaus von Stauffenberg, who staged an abortive assassination attempt against Adolf Hitler on July 20, 1944.

The plaque was set up at the site of the attempted assassination, Hitler's "Wolf's Lair" general headquarters at Ketrzyn in northern Poland.

The plaque was unveiled in a nationally televised ceremony attended by representatives of the Polish and German governments. It was seen as a step toward improving relations between Poland and Germany.

The inscription on the plaque, which was designed by Polish sculptor Ewa Szczech-Siwicka, reads: "On this site there was a barrack where, on July 20, 1944, Count von Stauffenberg carried out an attack against Adolf Hitler. The count and numerous other Germans paid with their lives for their opposition to the Hitlerian dictatorship."

Last week also marked the 50th anniversary of the first mass deportations from the Warsaw ghetto to Treblinka. A solemn concert was held here to commemorate the occasion.