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**ISRAEL TO OFFER NEW AUTONOMY PLAN,
PARTIAL PULLOUT FROM GOLAN AT TALKS**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- Israel will offer a partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights and present a detailed proposal on Palestinian autonomy when the Middle East peace talks resume in Washington on Monday.

But its recommended timetable for elections in the administered territories may, in fact, be too fast for the Palestinians, who are deeply divided over the autonomy question.

Israel this week signaled its readiness to discuss territorial concession on the Golan Heights, as Arab foreign ministers met in Damascus to discuss the upcoming negotiations.

Israeli sources said negotiators would offer Syria a peace settlement based on Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for withdrawal of forces from the territories, though they would only propose a partial withdrawal.

This is in contrast to the stand of the previous Likud government, which excluded the officially annexed Golan Heights from the terms of Resolution 242.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly has instructed his negotiating team to draw a distinction between the Golan Heights and the Sinai, which Israel handed back in full to the Egyptians under the Camp David accords. Even under a full peace agreement, Syria will be told, Israel will not withdraw from the entire area of the Golan Heights.

The Arab foreign ministers in Damascus reportedly adopted a hard line going into the talks, apparently at the demand of Syrian President Hafez Assad.

The Arabs are furious at the American rapprochement with Israel, particularly the agreement on extending loan guarantees in the absence of a total freeze on Israeli settlements in the territories.

Differences Over Self-Governing Body

Israel's position at the talks faces opposition from within. Heads of Jewish councils in the Golan threatened this week to take "drastic measures" unless they received assurances that Israel would hold fast against territorial compromises on the Golan.

Three mayors in the area have asked to meet with Rabin before the talks start.

In briefing the negotiating teams, the prime minister also reportedly called for greater flexibility on the Palestinian issue.

In contrast to previous rounds, he instructed the negotiators to discuss matters of substance raised by the Palestinians, on condition that they touch on autonomy and not on long-term solutions to the conflict.

The three Israeli negotiating teams have been meeting for the past three days in anticipation of the talks.

The group headed by Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein will have to discuss major differences with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation over the shape of the Palestinian self-governing body.

Israel rejects the Palestinian demand for a

legislative rather than an administrative council. With U.S. support, it is insisting on a body of 13 to 15 members, each representing an area of responsibility in the territories.

This would be in the spirit of the five-year, interim period of self-rule that would precede negotiations on the final status of the territories.

Palestinian calls for a legislative council of 180 members -- identical with the number of seats reserved for representatives of the territories in the Palestine National Council -- are unacceptable to Israel.

This is not only because of the obvious link with the Palestine Liberation Organization, but because such a council would be a far-too-fast shortcut to an independent Palestinian entity.

But even the more limited autonomy plan being advanced by Prime Minister Rabin may be too accelerated for the Palestinians, who have still given no formal response to the American invitation to the talks opening next week.

Their reluctance to move ahead stands in sharp contrast to the last round of negotiations, when they accused former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of stalling the peace talks.

Palestinians Deeply Split

Israel has set a target date of April 1, 1993 for general elections in the territories, with interim deadlines of Dec. 1 for agreement on their format and Feb. 1 for an accord on the powers of the new council.

The timetable assumes sufficient time between each stage for the parties to bridge differences, and an absence of crises that would stall the process.

But the reality is likely to be much different.

When the PLO summoned the Palestinian delegation to Tunis this week, eight days before the resumption of the talks in Washington, it was not merely a matter of form.

Palestinian radicals are furious over U.S. agreement to provide loan guarantees to Israel with what they perceive as virtually no Israeli quid pro quo.

Palestinian leaders Faisal Husseini and Dr. Saeb Erekat left the Jordanian capital of Amman on Tuesday for talks in the Syrian capital of Damascus with Arab leaders and PLO officials on the upcoming round of negotiations.

There were signs of a widening controversy within the Palestinian delegation over positions to be adopted at the talks. Leaders of the Palestinian delegation reportedly asked editors of East Jerusalem dailies to refrain from criticizing the work of the delegation on the grounds that it would jeopardize the Palestinian cause at a delicate stage of the talks.

But journalists identified with the rejectionist front, which opposes the peace process, registered strong objections to the request.

Observers say that once agreement is reached on the structure of the self-governing body, the two parties will have to discuss the scope of its authority. This will involve Israel yielding much of its present power in the territories, and the extent to which it will do so comprises another bone of contention.

One Israeli proposal calls for the establish-

ment of a police force in the territories to take over criminal investigation and traffic control.

The Palestinians envisage a 20,000-strong police force, which would train in Jordan and comprise officers who had served in the Israeli police in the territories prior to the outbreak of the intifada.

"Since we will have no army, we will need a strong police force," said Hussein.

Just how strong is another potentially controversial issue.

A Greater European Role

Israel also wants an early agreement on customs, to prevent the local market from being exposed to cheap, competing merchandise.

Meanwhile, at the Foreign Ministry, preparations are under way for the next round of multi-lateral talks.

In sharp contrast to its predecessor, the new government is prepared to allow the Europeans a far more significant role in the working group on arms control in the Middle East.

Israel is suggesting that the European countries determine their precise status in the talks, in consultation with the two co-sponsors: the United States and Russia.

ARAB WORKERS SUSPECTED IN MURDER OF FARMER IN THE PLAIN OF SHARON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- A tomato farmer in the village of Kfar Ya'abetz in the Sharon Plain was murdered Wednesday, and police are searching for three Arab workers in connection with the case.

The incident is being regarded as related to the intifada.

The dead man was identified as Bechor Hajjaj, 55, a father of three daughters and two sons, ages 24 to 36.

His body was found around noon near his hothouse. He had been beaten to death with a blunt instrument and also strangled.

His assailants apparently escaped in his van, which he had parked under an awning next to the hothouse.

Hajjaj had gone out to his field at 6 a.m., as usual. He took on three Arab workers supplied by an Arab labor contractor to replace those who usually worked for him but had not shown up.

The laborers were employed for tomato picking and packing.

When he failed to show up for breakfast at 10 a.m., his wife went out to the fields to look for him. When she found both him and his vehicle missing, she notified the police.

Police found the body shortly thereafter, hidden under sacks near the hothouse. They believe the murder was committed early in the morning, as only three packed cases of tomatoes were on the pickup bench.

Large forces of police fanned out over a wide area to search for the assailants.

The area in which the murder took place is located in the Tel Mond bloc, southeast of Netanya, inland from the coast. The region is densely populated with old villages, in which many Arabs are employed in agriculture.

A year ago one farmer was murdered in Moshav Kadima, and a month and a half ago a similar murder took place on Moshav Batza. All of these murders are being considered related to the Palestinian nationalist cause.

ISRAEL AND CHINA INK ACCORD LOWERING BARRIERS TO TRADE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- Israel and the People's Republic of China initiated a trade agreement Wednesday that lowers administrative barriers to mutual commerce and opens up vast new vistas to Israeli exporters.

The speed with which the pact was drafted -- in only a month -- was an indication of China's interest in developing commercial relations between the two countries, said David Koren, director general of the Israeli Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The announcement followed reports that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was reconsidering plans to sell 40 Kfir jet planes to Taiwan because of objections by the Chinese People's Republic, which feared the deal would strengthen its traditional enemy.

Koren, who inaugurated the trade talks during an official visit to Beijing last month, said the Chinese are interested in Israeli technology, industry and agriculture.

Even before the establishment of diplomatic ties in January, Israel and China were trading partners. Israel registered \$40 million in exports to China last year, including agricultural and industrial goods and equipment, as well as arms.

It imported only \$4 million in Chinese goods, mainly shoes, textiles, pencils and other light industrial goods.

The accord was initiated two weeks before El Al's scheduled launching of direct flights from Tel Aviv to Beijing.

On Sept. 3, El Al Flight 095 will extend the flight map of Israel's national airline eastward in a non-stop, 10½-hour flight to the Chinese capital, passing over Russia and the now-independent states of the former Soviet Union.

Over 2,000 passengers have already booked flights, and the airline is now scheduling them aboard Boeing jumbo jets rather than the smaller 467s originally planned.

The airline expects to fly 7,000 passengers to Beijing in the first year of operations -- the vast majority of them Israelis and Westerners visiting China, with very few Chinese taking advantage of the flights initially.

The value of the new route reaches far beyond its commercial importance, said Yeshayahu Hassid, director of El Al Israel.

"For the first time, our flight map extends eastward. Our air agreements with many of the East Asian airlines serving Beijing eastward mean that El Al passengers can go on to book flights from China to virtually any other destination in the Far East."

SHARON RECOVERING FROM SURGERY

TEL AVIV, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- Likud Knesset member Ariel Sharon, the former housing minister, was reported Wednesday to be resting comfortably after undergoing gallbladder surgery.

The surgery was carried out Tuesday at the Sheba government hospital in Tel Hashomer.

Surgeons reported that the one-hour operation went well, and that Sharon should be sent home in a few days.

Sharon had been admitted to the hospital in early July, complaining of pains. Doctors discovered an infected gallbladder but decided to wait for surgery, meanwhile treating the infection.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

**REFUGEE CHILDREN FROM YUGOSLAVIA
FIND BEING FAR FROM HOME ISN'T EASY**
By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Leaving home is never easy, but for the nearly 200 Yugoslav children who have found refuge in Israel in recent months, the separation from parents and familiar surroundings has proved especially difficult.

As fighting rages in what was once Yugoslavia, the children, who began arriving three months ago, are trying to become accustomed to life in a new land.

Housed in three Youth Aliyah villages throughout the country, the children -- ages 8 to 18 -- do not seem different from other youths attending sleep-away camp. Like other campers, they take trips, watch movies and make mischief.

But a look into their eyes reveals an uneasiness that goes beyond homesickness. Between gulps of falafel and a trip to the zoo, these kids think about war and loved ones left behind.

"Some of our kids are very frightened, while others seem to have adjusted quite well," says Uzi Kremer, the director of Jerusalem's Goldstein Youth Village, home to 55 of the youngsters.

"A lot depends on how close the children's homes are to the fighting," he says. "Of course, as with all the children who live here, we do the best we can."

The picturesque facility, set on 20 acres of rolling green hills, is regarded as an oasis for children in crisis. Founded in 1949, it has housed thousands of children from lands of distress.

As in the past, priority for the few hundred dormitory beds is given to orphans, children separated from their parents and those from troubled homes.

During the coming school year, the Yugoslav youths will be joined by 70 teens from the former Soviet republics, 45 from France, 90 from the United States and 130 from problem homes within Israel. Another 150 Israelis will attend classes on a commuter basis.

'Our Goal Is To Relax Them'

Yet, on this hot summer morning, Goldstein seems more like a summer camp than a boarding school. Children run in and out of the dozen or so buildings that comprise the village. Some, on their way to the pool, carry swim gear, while others sport tennis rackets.

"Except for an occasional class in Jewish history or Hebrew, the emphasis here is on fun," says Kremer, who is a psychologist by training.

"A pressured environment is the last thing these kids need," he explains. "They have come from a country with troubles, tensions and violence. Our goal here is to relax them. That way, they'll enter the school year ready to learn."

While the majority of the children are obviously enjoying themselves, those from war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina -- about a dozen in the Goldstein group -- are having a tougher time.

"For starters," says Kremer, "many of our kids have actually seen fighting. If that weren't bad enough, the communication lines are down in that region."

"So while most of the other children receive phone calls and letters from home, the Bosnian kids have no contact with their parents," he says. "It's no wonder they are sad and withdrawn."

Their fear has taken several forms, the director says. "They have trouble sleeping and

cry very easily. Sometimes they become aggressive, at other times withdrawn. All we can do is offer a lot of love and a stable environment."

When asked whether the recent visit of some of the children's parents has hindered or helped his cause, Kremer can barely restrain his anger.

"If it were up to me, I wouldn't have allowed the parents to come for a visit," he says. "Only 16 of our 55 children have been reunited with their parents, leaving the others more demoralized than ever. Good-natured kids have suddenly begun to misbehave and stop learning."

'Mixed Feelings About Sending Her'

To soften the blow, Goldstein staffers encouraged the visiting parents to spend as much time as they wanted with their offspring -- provided it was not at the village. At the same time, the other kids were treated to a trip to a water park.

"The trip was so much fun," says one staffer, "that the kids with visiting parents were upset they hadn't gone, too."

Two days after her mother's arrival from Belgrade, 12-year-old Anna Ferger is all smiles. Strolling around the capital with her mother, Boyena, she says, "I've missed her so much. I really can't believe she's here."

Boyena, touching her daughter's pony-tail, gives a deep sigh. "It's been lonely without Anna. She's everything to me."

The decision to send her daughter to Israel was not easy, she says. "So far, things have been quiet in Belgrade, so I had mixed feelings about sending her away. But when five of her close friends flew to Israel, Anna said she wanted to go, too."

Though pleased with Anna's life at the village, Boyena has one concern: "If Anna chooses to remain in Israel for more than the year we agreed upon, it won't be an easy situation."

"I'm not sure she's old enough to make this kind of decision," she says. "On the other hand, I want to give her the chance to live her own life."

MORE ARRIVING FROM SARAJEVO

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- Forty Jews from war-torn Sarajevo are expected to fly to Israel early Friday morning, the Jewish Agency for Israel has announced.

Residents of that strife-ridden city have lived in terror since war broke out among the republics that once comprised Yugoslavia.

More than 400 Jews from the former Yugoslavia have found refuge here since fighting broke out. Another 200 children are being housed in Youth Aliyah villages throughout the country for the duration of the war.

On Tuesday, an Israeli air force Hercules transport flew 15 tons of food and medicine to Zagreb, the Croatian capital. The supplies, which were bound for Sarajevo, constitute the first official government aid to the region. Non-government agencies have already sent assistance.

In other aliyah news, more than 200 Jews arrived from Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, in the wee hours of Wednesday morning. Another 255 arrived from Moscow; Minsk, Belarus; and Tbilisi, Georgia.

"Immigration is definitely up from the Moslem republics of the former Soviet Union," said Jewish Agency spokesman Boaz Shviger.

REPUBLICANS' INCLUSION OF BUCHANAN LEAVES JEWS FEELING UNCOMFORTABLE

By Cynthia Mann
States News Service

HOUSTON, Aug. 19 (JTA) -- Jewish activists here this week reacted with distaste and discomfort to the conservative call to arms delivered by Patrick Buchanan in a speech at the Republican National Convention kickoff Monday night.

Some were angered that the former presidential candidate, who has characterized the campaign as a holy war, was given the podium during prime time, just prior to the address by former President Ronald Reagan.

But many accepted the political calculus that Buchanan was needed to woo and solidify George Bush's right-wing base.

Several likened his inclusion, despite his acknowledged extremism, to the Democrats' obligation to allow Jerry Brown to address their convention in New York last month. They also compared it to the Democrats' efforts to strike a balance with the Rev. Jesse Jackson and his left-wing constituency.

But most seemed sanguine that, while Buchanan might have an important party base, he would be curbed in any effort to rise higher by other, more moderate and popular conservatives such as Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp.

"I was appalled that he was permitted to speak -- he is a hatermonger," said Sylvia Steiner, whose husband, David, is president of the non-partisan American Israel Public Affairs Committee. "A lot of Jewish Republicans will be very unhappy if he plays a role in the party," she said.

'A Perfunctory Gesture'

"Giving him a platform was a perfunctory gesture on behalf of the Republicans, and it was correct; he has a certain following," said a prominent Jewish Republican activist from Los Angeles, who asked that his name not be printed.

But the activist said Jews have no reason to feel threatened. Buchanan will "never be in a position to lead the party," he said.

"It was helpful to the election (effort) of George Bush to let him come home to the party," said another prominent Jewish Republican. "But he's basically a street fighter, and his mean-spirited face showed through."

Buchanan, who won 37 percent of the vote in the New Hampshire primary and averaged roughly 30 percent in the subsequent primaries in which he ran this year, is a self-described general in a war to protect America's white and Christian values, which, he feels, are threatened.

He has been labeled an anti-Semite by the likes of even conservative publisher William Buckley for writings that offer selective praise of Adolf Hitler, sympathy for the Holocaust revisionists and acerbic attacks on the pro-Israel lobby.

In his speech before the convention, Buchanan characterized the campaign as a "religious war going on in our country for the soul of America."

He attacked the Democrats' support for abortion rights and gay rights, as well as their opposition to public funding for private and parochial schools by calling it a deviation from the "Judeo-Christian values upon which this nation was built."

"It is not the kind of change we can abide in a nation we still call God's country," he said.

Buchanan closed his speech with an anecdote

about two young male army troopers who went into a Los Angeles neighborhood during the April riots to confront the mobs, "M-16s at the ready."

The mob retreated after it met "the one thing that could stop it: force, rooted in justice, backed by courage."

"As they took back the streets of Los Angeles, block by block, so we must take back our cities, and take back our culture, and take back our country," he said.

'Scary' Because Of Its Exclusivity

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, said it was impossible to dispute Buchanan's oratorical skills.

But he said that he found the speech "scary" because of its theme of exclusivity, particularly regarding homosexuals. "But he did mention Jews twice without stumbling," he added.

One mention was not part of the prepared text, however. In reference to the Democrats' opposition to public funding for religious schools, the original speech cited discrimination against "Christian schools" and "Catholic schools." Only during the delivery did Buchanan add, "Jewish schools."

Hier, who has debated Buchanan several times on the television show "Crossfire," said he was confident that the rise of Buchanan in the party would be checked by the popularity of HUD Secretary Kemp, a former New York congressman.

He also made a point of noting his discomfort with the inclusion of Jackson as a speaker at last month's Democratic convention.

"Buchanan's vision of America is at odds with the Jewish perspective of America and its strengths, built upon diversity, pluralism and inclusiveness," said Jess Hordes, Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League, who was in Houston for the week.

"It is clear there was a political calculation to include him as a means to secure the conservative base. But he also carries high negatives, and not just with Jews," Hordes said.

Matthew Brooks, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition, defended Buchanan's participation.

"Pat Buchanan was an announced and legitimate presidential candidate," he said. "Just like the Democrats had an obligation to allow Jerry Brown to speak at their convention, (the Republicans) had an obligation to let him speak. He earned the right through his campaign."

'No Home Within The Republican Party'

"There is nobody who can doubt the strong public commitment this party made in opposing Pat Buchanan," Brooks continued. "We've condemned his message and said it has no home within the Republican Party."

But despite this effort to distance the party from Buchanan, word had it in Houston that the conservative commentator would be encouraged to use his message to rally his troops for Bush during this campaign.

Brooks insisted the GOP was more adept than the Democrats at handling what he called "pariahs" within the party. "Look at Jesse Jackson," he said. "He was not a presidential candidate and had no delegates. But the Democrats reached out and asked him to participate" and then "gave him prime time exposure."

He added: "Nobody is going to have any (memory) of Pat Buchanan or what he said or even that he spoke, in a couple of days."