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A NEW TONE PERVADES FIRST DAY OF LATEST ROUND OF PEACE TALKS

By Cynthia Mann
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Negotiators at the sixth round of the Middle East peace talks gave high marks to the first session Monday, citing a new tone on all sides that reflects a real commitment to the process.

The Israeli delegation met with the Syrians for more than three hours, presenting them with a detailed proposal to resolve the dispute over the Golan Heights, but neither party would disclose what it entailed.

The Syrians said it was a serious plan and that they would prepare a response. They praised the Israelis for accepting the relevance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which calls on Israel to withdraw from occupied land in return for peace.

The previous government had argued the resolution did not necessarily apply to the Golan Heights, West Bank or Gaza Strip, maintaining that Israel had fulfilled its obligation under the resolution by returning the Sinai to Egypt.

The harmony at the peace talks was marred slightly by the late arrival of the Palestinian team, which had left the region late in protest over Israeli rules governing travel permits.

But the atmosphere was buoyed by fresh hopes that Israel's new, more flexible government would spur the breakthroughs needed to resolve the region's intractable conflicts.

No 'Preconditions, Delays Or Evasions'

In sharp contrast to the tough, intransigent talk from the previous rounds of negotiations, the rhetoric Monday was full of openness, optimism and cordial expressions of good will.

The Israelis "enter this round with an open mind, new ideas and a renewed sense of devotion to our goals" without "preconditions, delays or evasions," Yossi Gal, spokesman for the Israeli delegation, said at an afternoon news briefing.

Gal said the new government had reordered its national priorities, taken steps to accelerate the peace negotiations and "set as its prime goal the promotion of peace in the Middle East," leading to the end of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He called on his Arab partners to adopt a similar stance.

Bushra Kanafani, spokeswoman for the Syrian delegation, said she came away from the morning session with a distinct impression of change.

"Our delegation heard today a different tone from the Israeli delegation, a different approach and style," she reported. She called the atmosphere surrounding the talks "reasonable and constructive."

The progress in the talks with Syria can be attributed in part to the new head of the Israeli negotiating team, Itamar Rabinovich, a renowned Middle East scholar whose appointment sent a message to Syrians that Israel was serious about doing business.

Kanafani said the Israeli delegation affirmed its commitment to U.N. Resolution 242, calling it an "opening point."

"Before we used to struggle and fight," she

said. "Now the road is paved for the discussions." While acknowledging there are different interpretations of 242, she said they would be discussed.

She said it was premature to address the substance of the proposal on the Golan Heights, but acknowledged it "remains the core of the problem between us and Israel."

"The Golan is occupied Syrian territory," she said. "We want all the Golan, and we want peace and security. (But you) can't talk about it when you leave part of your territory under occupation."

Syrians Express 'Profound Seriousness'

Real peace, she said, "means in our minds that we'll regain our rights in our lands."

Nevertheless, she said the Syrian delegation assured the Israelis of "our genuine and profound seriousness in the peace process."

Marwan Moasher, information officer for the Jordanian Embassy, said after the morning session with Israel that there had been "positive developments in spirit and theme."

He said that while differences remain "in principle," the tone of the talks is different.

The Israelis will meet for the first time Tuesday with the full Palestinian delegation. Gal said they would offer their plan for election in the territories of an administrative council that would serve as an interim means of Palestinian self-government.

Gal reiterated Israel's opposition to the Palestinians' proposal for a legislative body, calling it an "organ of statehood," to which Israel has not agreed.

And he called on the Palestinians to be open and flexible. They "have nothing to lose. They have everything to gain," he said. "They are not risking anything by engaging in serious dialogue with us. We are the ones on the giving side."

"We hope the upcoming five weeks will constitute five firm and giant steps in the monumental search for peace," said Gal. He said he would request that news briefings be kept to a minimum to discourage rhetoric and advance the substantive agenda of the talks, which will recess just before Rosh Hashanah.

ISRAEL SCRAPS EXPULSION ORDERS IN LATEST SIGN OF POLICY SHIFT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's decision this week to cancel deportation orders against 11 Palestinians is the latest in a series of signals that Israel's new government intends to adopt a much more moderate policy toward residents of the administered territories.

The Defense Ministry announced Monday that deportation orders issued in January against the 11 Arab residents of the territories will be rescinded.

Instead, the 11 will be placed in administrative detention, "in order to distance them from hostile activity in the field." This means that they will serve sentences in a prison camp and then be able to return to their homes.

Rabin, who is also defense minister, acted on the recommendation of Justice Minister David

Libai, after consulting with the heads of the Israel Defense Force's Southern and Central regional commands.

But Rabin made clear that he has not ruled out the use of expulsions in the future to crack down on violence in the administered territories.

The premier's decision came a day after the Defense Ministry announced a series of measures designed to relax the atmosphere in the administered territories.

These included the early release of 800 security prisoners serving time for incidents that did not result in bodily harm, and the reopening of houses of security offenders that were sealed off five years ago and earlier.

While the measures indicate a determination by the Rabin government to adopt a more moderate stance toward the Palestinians, a series of recent incidents shows that the rapid change of policy has not yet trickled down to those responsible for implementing it.

As a result, one government hand often appears to lack awareness of what the other is doing.

For instance, the government has signaled that it wants to treat members of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks with respect and would essentially look the other way if they had contact with Palestine Liberation Organization officials in Tunis.

VIP Abroad, Security Risk At Home

But last Friday, border police prevented six support staffers from crossing the Allenby Bridge into Jordan with the rest of the Palestinian delegation, which was en route to peace talks in Washington.

The authorities cited a regulation requiring a special pass for Palestinian men under 35 who leave the country and wish to return in less than nine months.

The incident was finally resolved without the staffers having to obtain the passes, but not before the Palestinians were able to raise an international outcry over the incident, which resulted in a one-day delay of the resumption of the peace talks.

At issue was the larger question of the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

While Labor Party officials have hinted they are ready to depart from Likud policy and allow residents of East Jerusalem to vote in Palestinian elections, the government is continuing its refusal to recognize Faisal Husseini as an integral part of the official Palestinian delegation because he is a resident of the formerly Arab eastern portion of the capital.

As a result, Husseini, who undoubtedly calls the shots in local Palestinian politics, is treated as a VIP abroad and as a security risk at home.

That appears to go as well for other members of the Palestinian delegation. Several weeks ago, Israeli soldiers burst into the Gaza home of delegation member Zakariya al-Agha, allegedly for "operational reasons."

But the move was widely seen as a clear challenge to the delegates' claim to a certain measure of diplomatic immunity.

Israeli officials have, in fact, tried to offer the Palestinian delegates official documents granting them special immunity.

But the Palestinians have refused, insisting that the same privileges be accorded to members of their "advisory board," which includes Husseini and spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

JEWISH SETTLERS MARCH TO PROTEST NEW POLICIES, AGAINST PEACE TALKS By Michele Chabin and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Jews opposed to the new Rabin government policy of curtailing settlements in Arab areas demonstrated in East Jerusalem and in the West Bank town of Kiryat Arba on Monday.

The protests appeared timed to coincide with the resumption of peace talks in Washington.

About 50 Jews marched through East Jerusalem. The protest was organized by the Forum for Jerusalem, an organization composed of several right-wing members of the Jerusalem City Council and the Knesset, and several East Jerusalem settlement movements, including Ateret Cohanim and Atara Leyoshna.

Carrying banners and Israeli flags, the protesters began their march in Beit Orot in East Jerusalem, and ended at the Lion's Gate in the Moslem Quarter of the Old City.

Flanked by several soldiers and a dozen journalists, the protesters chanted "Jerusalem of Gold" as they marched through the Arab neighborhood of A-Tur.

Their path was chosen "to retrace the route" of the Israel Defense Force paratroopers "who stormed the Old City in 1967," according to Rabbi Benny Elon of Beit El.

"We are marching today because we are in favor of Jewish settlement in Jerusalem as a whole, and in the Old City in particular," said Yossi Peled, a member of Knesset from the Tso-met party.

"We fear that the new government is taking steps to limit the Jewish presence in East Jerusalem," he said.

Brooklyn Councilman Joins In

The group was joined by New York City Councilman Dov Hikind, in Israel on a family vacation, who said he was marching "to express my support for fellow Jews who are making every effort toward the liberation of Jerusalem."

The councilman, who represents the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, said, "I have the largest constituency of Jews in the state legislature, and I am really expressing their view that Jews should be able to live in every area of Jerusalem."

Unperturbed by the small turnout, Shmuel Meir, the director of the Forum for Jerusalem, said he was satisfied with the march. "We wanted to demonstrate our point on the day the peace talks opened, and we succeeded."

In Kiryat Arba, 51 settlers were detained after defying a military order declaring a controversial housing site closed.

The settlers appeared on the site, which is between the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba and the Arab town of Hebron, as their representatives appealed to a military planning and zoning board the decision banning further building there.

At that site two weeks ago, the settlers attempted to erect a new building but were prevented from doing so.

The army detained most of those who demonstrated Monday, but released most of them during the day.

The military board gave the settlers three more weeks to appeal to the High Court of Justice against the ban on building. During that period, the army will not demolish the foundation of the controversial building, which consists of makeshift cinderblock walls and no roof.

**JORDANIANS CONFRONT TOUR BOAT
IN RARE CLASH IN GULF OF EILAT****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- In the first serious incident of its kind, an Israeli tour boat and a Jordanian coast guard ship engaged in a serious clash last Friday night in the Gulf of Eilat.

The Israeli navy was forced to intervene in order to prevent blood from being spilled, the Israeli daily Ma'ariv reported Monday.

During the late evening hours of Aug. 21, the tour boat Eilat, carrying tourists on an outing, sailed in mid-gulf along the sea border between Israel and Jordan.

Suddenly, a Jordanian warship approached, with Jordanian soldiers posted on deck, aiming their weapons at the Israeli craft.

The Jordanian soldiers informed the Eilat skipper, Ruth Korotz, that the craft had penetrated Jordanian territory by a few hundred meters.

They demanded that the Israeli boat and its passengers accompany them to the Jordanian port of Aqaba.

The Israelis refused, claiming the Jordanians had crossed the border and were attempting to abduct Israeli citizens and passengers from Israeli territory.

The skipper alerted the Israeli navy, which immediately dispatched a Dabour boat.

The Jordanians did not concede and, while threatening with their weapons, they continued to demand that the Israeli craft accompany them. Only when they realized that the Dabour sailors intended to prevent the transfer of Israelis to Jordanian territory did the Jordanian ship retreat.

Sources in Eilat report that this is the first time the Jordanians have demonstrated resolve in the Gulf of Eilat and threatened citizens with weapons.

Until this incident, there was peaceful co-existence in the northern Gulf of Eilat, and both parties have permitted seafarers who crossed the border to return to their territory.

**RABIN FAILS IN LATEST ATTEMPT
TO WOO TSOMET AND UNITED TORAH****By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Renewed efforts to expand Israel's Labor-led government coalition have failed.

In an attempt to broaden his base of support, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met Sunday with the head of the right-wing Tsomet party and representatives of the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism party. But he made no progress.

Labor formed a government a month and a half ago with the help of the left-wing Meretz party and the Sephardic religious party Shas. The three parties together command a bare majority of 62 in the 120-seat Knesset.

Rabin has persistently courted Tsomet and United Torah Judaism, whose Knesset strength would provide Labor with a comfortable 74-seat majority and a more centrist political orientation.

Tsomet leader Rafael Eitan emerged from his meeting with the prime minister criticizing newly announced concessions toward the Palestinians, and calling for expulsion of the 800 Arab prisoners to be released by the government in a goodwill gesture.

Discussion between the two was said to have

focused not on the government but rather on the creation of an industrial park in the Negev.

But a similar lack of progress attended coalition talks with United Torah leaders Menachem Porush and Avraham Shapira.

The two religious party leaders gave as their reason for staying out rabbinical opposition to the appointment of Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni to the post of education minister.

Aloni, an outspoken dove, is reviled by the Orthodox for her strong stand against the religious establishment.

The National Religious Party, too, announced Sunday that the present "path" of the Labor government prevented it from joining Meretz and Shas in the Labor-led coalition.

**EXTRADITE 'CRAZY EDDIE' TO U.S.,
ISRAELI JUSTICE MINISTER URGES****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Israeli Justice Minister David Libai has recommended that American businessman Eddie Antar be extradited to the United States, so that he can stand trial for the theft of some \$53 million from investors.

On Monday, Libai instructed the State Attorney's Office to petition the Jerusalem District Court to send Antar back to the United States, as American courts have requested.

Antar is a former electronics king known as "Crazy Eddie" because, he claimed in manic television and radio commercials, his prices were "insane."

He is widely known throughout the Greater New York area for the commercials and for the many branches of the Crazy Eddie chain of electronics goods. He made millions, then declared bankruptcy about four years ago.

He then went to Wall Street and issued securities, allowing him to start up again.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission questioned the prospectus issued by Antar and his brothers, Mitchell and Allen, which reportedly inflated the value of the 43-store chain.

Antar allegedly stole over \$50 million from the chain's proceeds. The chain was liquidated in 1990, after it was learned that Antar had disappeared.

It is now known that Antar, an American-born Jew of Syrian origin, fled to Israel in March 1988. He became an Israeli citizen three months after his arrival and changed his name to Stewart Alexander.

U.S. authorities tracked his whereabouts through various means, including a source in Switzerland with access to related bank records.

He was found to have used several aliases, including that of David Cohen of Brazil.

In June, police secretly photographed the so-called David Cohen of Brazil and sent the pictures to New York, where the man in them was clearly identified as Antar.

Antar, 45, was uncovered by Israeli undercover police in Yavne, south of Tel Aviv, at the end of June in an undercover operation. Police said they discovered in Antar's villa a briefcase containing \$60,000 in various currencies and passports in various names.

He was remanded in custody by a Petach Tikvah magistrate, pending extradition hearings at the request of the U.S. Justice Department.

U.S. sources said the Antar brothers face an 18-count indictment for insider trading as well as securities and mail fraud.

DUTCH SOCCER CLUB TO TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT ANTI-SEMITISM AT MATCHES

By Ruben E. Vis

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- A premier Dutch soccer team has announced it will take strong measures to prevent racist and anti-Semitic views from being expressed at soccer matches.

Ge Voortman, chairman of the Go Ahead Eagles, said the team had recently installed closed-circuit video in its stadium. "Those who will be caught expressing racist views are to be expelled from the stadium for at least half a year," he said.

Holland has no law to prevent such expressions, which have become commonplace at European soccer matches, and it has proven difficult to root out the instigators.

But Voortman said, "Special arrangements have been made between the club, the police department and the district attorney to prosecute perpetrators on the spot."

Go Ahead Eagles is the first club to take any action against the growing wave of racist and anti-Semitic sentiments being expressed at soccer matches throughout Europe.

The club has invested some \$50,000 in the anti-racist campaign. No other club announced it will follow the initiative yet.

Anti-Semitism and racism at soccer matches has particularly affected Ajax, a soccer team based in Amsterdam known as a "Jews' club" which nevertheless has no Jews on its lineup. It is not even clear why it is called a Jews' club.

In fact, only a handful of Jews play professional soccer.

Chants Of 'Please, Hitler, Return'

In recent years, groups of soccer fans throughout Europe have been infiltrated by extreme right-wing, racist and fascist movements. Besides unfurling banners with swastikas and other Nazi signs, fans make hissing sounds to imitate the leaking of gas, as a reminder of the Nazi gas chambers.

These racist demonstrators are also prone to yelling: "Please, Hitler, return. You haven't finished your job yet."

Older fans, senior citizens born before World War II, are shocked to see how easily a sports event can turn into a neo-Nazi rally.

The racist strains of anti-Semitism and anti-black sentiments have also become melded.

A few weeks ago, Dutch soccer player Aaron Winter was transferred to the Rome-based club Lazio. Italian soccer fans, hearing his Jewish-sounding name, reacted angrily to the news, saying they did not want a Jew to represent their team.

Ironically, Winter is not a Jew. He is black, the son of Hindu parents from Suriname, in South America. His second name, in fact, is Muhammed. He himself is not religious at all.

Until now, neither soccer clubs nor players have spoken up against the problem. Most clubs have tried to push the problem aside by ascribing it to "a changing society," while claiming the problem should not have to be solved by soccer clubs.

Up until now, Dutch clubs pointed at law-enforcement authorities to solve the problem. In Italy, a special law was passed aiming at preventing racism at soccer games.

In the Netherlands, it seems that there are no legal tools yet at hand.

WORLD CONFERENCE OPENS IN AMSTERDAM FOR JEWISH CHILDREN HIDDEN IN HOLLAND

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- A conference of Jewish children who survived the Holocaust in hiding in this country opened here Sunday to wide publicity in the local media.

It was a local version of the landmark conference of "hidden children" held in New York in June 1991. But this conference was only for Jews who as children were in hiding in Holland during the Nazi occupation.

Over 500 people now living in several different countries registered to participate. Even more applied, but the organizers did not want participation to be too massive.

At last year's conference in New York, only 60 hidden children from Holland participated, as the travel expenses were an obstacle for many.

The Amsterdam conference, lasting three days, was organized by the Jewish Social Welfare Foundation and the Information Center for Material Aid to Victims of World War II. It was initiated by Max Arian, who was himself a hidden child.

Arian was present last year at the New York gathering. He is now a journalist for the Dutch left-wing weekly *Di Groene* (The Green).

Apart from the opening and closing sessions, the conference will be accessible only to the "hidden children" themselves.

Several social workers and psychologists were on hand to help those who might experience emotional difficulties.

The conference was opened Sunday morning by the Dutch minister for social welfare, Hedy D'Ancona, whose father was Jewish.

D'Ancona stressed that an important result of this conference is that persons who for 50 years were unable to talk about their traumatic experiences now at last are able to tell their story and share it with others.

Some Traumatized, Others Bitter

Several interviews and radio and television programs that appeared on the eve of the conference stressed the traumatic experiences of these children, particularly after the war.

Some are embittered that they were forcibly removed from their loving foster parents, where they had felt safe and at home, and taken to Jewish relatives or even to Israel.

Others, on the other hand, were angered that they were left with non-Jewish foster parents, where they felt totally alien and where Jews were known only from the Old Testament.

Of this second group was Bjorn Gruenbaum, now a prosperous businessman in Philadelphia, who appeared on a Saturday night television program which had received advance publicity.

In a replay of an American television interview, Gruenbaum said he was not only a survivor of the Holocaust but a survivor among survivors, as many children in similar positions as he had committed suicide or had landed in psychiatric institutions.

He himself, at the age of 16, fled from the small Dutch town where he had felt thoroughly unhappy and escaped to Sweden, where he became, in his own words, "a human being for the first time in my life."

From Sweden he went on to the United States, where he now owns a firm in advanced computer technology.