

75th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1992

VOL. 70, NO. 165

**ISRAEL PRESENTS DETAILED PROPOSAL FOR INTERIM PALESTINIAN SELF-RULE**By Cynthia Mann  
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- As anticipated, Israeli negotiators have presented the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks with new and detailed proposals for interim Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to Elyakim Rubinstein, chairman of the Israeli team negotiating with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the Israelis on Tuesday evening proposed a plan in which the Palestinians in the territories would elect an administrative council to manage their day-to-day affairs.

The Palestinians had in a previous round of talks submitted their own plan for an elected legislative body, which Israel opposes. But so far the Palestinians have indicated they are receptive to the Israeli plan, at least as a point of departure for negotiations.

Rubinstein was cautious but hopeful in remarks he made at a news briefing Wednesday.

"Nobody should delude themselves (that) these are easy things to tackle," he said. "The task is awesome."

But he added that "progress should and can be made," given the accelerated pace of the talks, the detail of the proposals and the spirit of openness that has prevailed among all parties this week.

Rubinstein would not spell out the details of the plan submitted to the Palestinians, saying they should be left at the negotiating table.

Indeed, in contrast to some of the public posturing in the past, all the delegations appear to agree that the less told to the news media about the substance of the talks, the better.

**'A Major Step Forward'**

But Rubinstein did say the proposal addresses the powers and responsibilities of the council, its size and composition, and a timetable for the elections.

He said the Palestinians have been offered proposals for how the council would manage matters in areas such as justice, police work, labor, ecology, taxation, and industry and commerce.

Some areas would be handled jointly with Israeli authorities, while matters of defense and foreign affairs, as well as all matters pertaining to Jewish residents of the territories, reportedly would be exempt from Palestinian jurisdiction.

The proposal falls short of Palestinian calls for a legislative body with full legislative authority. But Rubinstein said such an institution would be a symbol of an independent state, which Israel would find unacceptable.

Rubinstein defended the administrative council as the appropriate mechanism for an interim Palestinian self-government. He said it represents a "major step forward" from where Palestinians stand now and would "leave options open" for discussions down the road on the final status of the territories, as spelled out by the two-stage formula agreed to in Madrid.

That formula calls for the establishment of

an interim government for five years, with negotiations on the permanent status of the territories to start at the beginning of the third year. It stipulates that during the interim negotiations, Israel will not be required to commit itself to any specific final outcome.

Rubinstein said that the Palestinian plan for a legislative body structures "the final status here and now" and that, given the "situation between us and the Palestinians, things can't be solved right away."

He said both peoples need a period of peaceful coexistence, "working together in a new way before (determining) the final status."

The Israeli negotiator said his delegation did not formally request an end to the intifada, the ongoing, sometimes-violent Palestinian uprising against the Israeli presence in the territories. But he implied the Israelis expected the Palestinian leadership would make an effort to call for calm.

Noting the recent series of confidence-building measures in the territories announced by the Israeli government, he said he hoped the effort would be reciprocated.

**ARAFAT BLASTS U.S. IN U.N. ADDRESS, SAYING ISRAEL TILT ENDANGERS PEACE**

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat accused the United States this week of tilting toward Israel and thereby "jeopardizing the peace process."

His angry speech Wednesday at the United Nations' European headquarters here contrasted markedly with the upbeat tone emanating from the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians in Washington.

Arafat attacked the United States for agreeing to loan guarantees for Israel, which will be used to absorb new immigrants, most of them from the former Soviet Union.

The PLO chief attributed the decision to domestic politics and said it was "not in keeping with the responsibilities of the United States as a co-sponsor of the peace conference."

Arafat, whose audience at the annual conference of international non-governmental bodies on Palestine seemed smaller than on past occasions, adopted a more moderate tone when he met with reporters later.

"I did not threaten to put an end to the negotiations. If the Israelis continue their iron-fisted policy, they will threaten the peace process," he said.

"I am not pessimistic at all. If I wasn't optimistic I would not have embarked on this process of negotiations," he said.

In his speech, Arafat said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was in reality continuing the hard-line policies of Yitzhak Shamir.

"He gives the world sugar-coated words and pursues an iron-fisted policy on the ground," Arafat said.

He attacked Israel's proposal for the election of a Palestinian administrative council to oversee self-rule. He said the elections would be held "under the guns and cannons of its tanks."

Palestinians want elections to be held under international auspices, he said.

## TWO DOVISH KNESSET MEMBERS MEET PLO OFFICIAL IN HOLLAND

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- In yet another challenge to Israel's law banning contacts with representatives of terrorist organizations, two dovish Knesset members met last weekend in The Hague with Nabil Sha'ath, political adviser to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

The Knesset members were Yael Dayan of Labor and Naomi Chazan of the left-wing Meretz bloc.

Although meetings between PLO officials and Israeli peace activists have become routine, it was the first time that two key members of the governing coalition met openly with a senior PLO official.

As expected, two Knesset members of the opposition Likud bloc, Limor Livnat and Michael Eitan, rushed to demand that Dayan's and Chazan's parliamentary immunity be waived, so that they could be prosecuted for violating the law.

Dayan said she was well aware she had violated the law and that she was willing to bear the legal consequences.

But the law may be changed before legal steps against the two Knesset members can be taken. The Justice Ministry is preparing a bill that would amend the law to prohibit only those meetings intended to undermine state security.

In the past, peace activists such as Abie Nathan served jail sentences for similar meetings with PLO officials.

Sha'ath is considered one of Arafat's closest advisers and is one of the most senior officials in the PLO, chairing its political committee.

Dayan had met with him in the past, but it was the first time she had done so as a Knesset member of one of the ruling parties in Israel.

Dayan said that the meeting had taken place at the initiative of Sha'ath, who invited both Knesset members to meet him in Holland, where he was en route to the Washington peace talks.

She said both she and Chazan felt the hours-long talk was very satisfactory and that there were no substantial differences, only a technical gap, "which required a lot of patience and concessions by both parties."

"If Nabil Sha'ath represents the PLO, there is a good chance that we shall overcome the obstacles" to a peace settlement, she said.

## BORDER POLICE UNIT LEADER KILLED IN ALL-NIGHT SHOOTOUT IN WEST BANK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- The commander of a special undercover unit of the border police, a Palestinian woman and two terrorists tied to the Palestine Liberation Organization were killed in an all-night battle in the West Bank town of Jenin.

The dead woman's two daughters, ages 1 and 3, and another Arab woman were wounded in the shootout.

The battle, which lasted through the wee hours of Wednesday, was one of the fiercest ever fought by undercover units operating in the administered territories.

The special unit was sent to an apartment building in Jenin at around 1 a.m. Wednesday, after intelligence information was received that two terrorists wanted by Israeli authorities had

found shelter in the apartment of a man named Khaled Alawneh.

The police, under the command of Inspector Eliahu Avraham, were fired on as they tried to jump from the roof into the second-floor apartment where the terrorists were located. Avraham was fatally wounded. As he lay bleeding on a staircase, the rest of the unit tried to reach him but was prevented from doing so by the heavy fire.

It was apparently during this shootout that a woman who lived in the building was shot dead and her daughters severely wounded.

A resident of Jerusalem, Avraham, 29, was married and the father of a 6-month-old baby. He was the founder of the special border police undercover unit, which worked along with similar undercover units of the Israel Defense Force in the territories.

The dead terrorists belonged to the so-called Black Panther unit of Al Fatah, the mainstream movement of the PLO, and had reportedly been on Israel's most-wanted list for some time.

One of them, Ibrahim Salman Jalamna, 18, of Jenin, had been sought since October 1989. He was suspected of committing a variety of terrorist acts, including armed attacks of Israeli soldiers, violent interrogation of local Palestinians and the murder of Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel.

The second terrorist, Ibrahim Sa'id A-Zarka, 21, also from Jenin, was wanted for the murder in Jenin in February of an Israeli, Lior Zerliker, who was a guard on an oil tanker.

Another incident took place Wednesday morning in the Gaza Strip, when a terrorist tried to stab a soldier.

The soldier's life was saved by his flak jacket, which stopped the knife from entering. He was not injured.

## RABIN SAYS IRAQI STRIKE UNLIKELY AS U.S. ESTABLISHES A 'NO-FLY ZONE'

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- There is "very low" probability that Iraq will retaliate against new allied military moves by attacking Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said this week.

But he is urging Israelis to keep public discussion of the issue to a minimum.

Rabin spoke Tuesday, on the eve of President Bush's anticipated announcement that U.S. and allied warplanes would enforce a "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq in an effort to prevent Saddam Hussein's air force from attacking Iraqi Shi'ite Moslems.

Bush announced the allied operation Wednesday morning in an appearance in the White House newsroom in Washington.

He said the ban on flights by Iraqi fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft south of the 32nd parallel would go into effect in 24 hours and "remain in effect until the coalition determines it is no longer necessary."

Rabin, who also serves as defense minister, reinforced the assessment made by military authorities at a Cabinet meeting Sunday that the threat of an Iraqi attack was much smaller now than during the Persian Gulf War.

Meeting with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, he urged that discussion of the issue be kept low-key, "so as not to create a momentum of speculation."

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES: GOP USE OF RELIGION IN CAMPAIGN BOTHERS SOME IN JEWISH COMMUNITY

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- The injection of religion into the American presidential campaign has elicited sharp criticism from Jewish Democrats, some concern from Jewish organizations and approval from some Jewish Republicans.

"For George Bush to criticize the Democratic platform for not mentioning the word 'God' is unseemly and has no place in American politics," the National Jewish Democratic Council, a pro-Democratic party group, said in a statement Monday.

Speaking before a convention of evangelical Christian leaders last weekend, President Bush had said he was struck that "the other party took words to put together their platform but left out three simple letters: G, O, D."

The Jewish Democrats charged that "Bush's willingness to manipulate religion for political gain is an accurate reflection of the Republican Party's pandering to far-right activists. It is inexcusable that a supposedly mainstream political party in this country is so adverse to tolerance and pluralism."

The reaction was more muted, however, from Jewish organizational officials.

While most predicted that the Republican appeals to their most conservative and evangelical constituents would cost them Jewish votes, few wanted to judge the propriety of the campaign.

Their reluctance may have been motivated in part by a federal regulation prohibiting tax-exempt groups from engaging in partisan political activities.

### 'Harmful To Our Political System'

But Jewish groups in the past have taken strong stands on limiting the role of religion and religious groups in the political process.

In 1985, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council adopted a policy statement calling on public officials, candidates for public office and political parties "to reject categorically the pernicious notion that only one brand of politics or religion meets with God's approval and that others are necessarily evil."

Lawrence Rubin, the umbrella group's executive vice chair, said he thinks the Republicans have gone "over the line."

"When people start using religion as a club in the political process, that's harmful to our political system," he said. "It creates a sense of those who are in and those who are not. It raises a question of the entanglement of church and state."

Similarly, Phil Baum, associate executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said that religious belief and commitment "should not be a matter for partisan politics."

"Religion is demeaned by using it in a partisan political manner," he said.

"I think many Jews are deeply uncomfortable when they see this heavy mix of religion and politics, and sense that the two are too heavily intertwined," said David Harris, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee.

"It's going to make the Republican quest for Jewish votes in November much more difficult," he said.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, agreed

that the injection of religion into the campaign is nothing new and said it would likely hurt the Republican quest for Jewish votes.

What it would not hurt, he said, is the country itself.

"I don't think this rhetoric will change attitudes," said the Reform leader, referring as well to other statements at the Republican National Convention last week that were criticized for appealing to various forms of prejudice.

"It just tries to get support from people who are already prejudiced," he said.

### 'Just A Quadrennial Rite'

And Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said that the rhetoric at the Republican convention should not be a serious matter of concern.

"The Jewish community is more sophisticated," he said. "We realize to what extent this is just a quadrennial rite, whose purpose is first to serve the inner needs of the party faithful and then to play outward."

"I don't think the Jewish community, as a Jewish community, fared well at either of the conventions," he added.

"Israel, anti-Semitism -- they weren't mentioned at the Democratic convention; ironically, the only one who spoke on those terms was Jesse Jackson. The Republican convention had a similar element, where Pat Buchanan spoke on Judeo-Christian values."

"Sure, the Jewish community would have preferred that Buchanan not be highlighted at the convention, but I'm realistic enough to understand that to the party it was a necessity," he said.

"I'm realistic enough to know that the phrase 'Judeo-Christian values' does not flow as a matter of course from Mr. Buchanan, that it was a matter of sensitivity, he tried to be responsive."

In his speech before the convention, Buchanan characterized the campaign as part of 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.

### Many Jews Feeling Estranged

Foxman said that the convention left many Jews feeling estranged and seemed a reversal of more than a decade of Republican outreach to the Jews. But he predicted this would be offset by the actual tone the campaign will take locally in New York, Chicago and other cities with large Jewish populations.

But Matthew Brooks, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition, a Republican group, doesn't see what all the fuss is about. He dismissed Buchanan's convention role as being a "lone voice with a narrow constituency."

Brooks said Jews should not be offended by bringing God into the political arena.

"What is wrong is the assumption in the Jewish community that when someone mentions God, they're trying to make it a Christian God," he said.

"Do I think it's bad that George Bush mentioned God? Absolutely not."

### THREE JEWISH COMMUNITIES SELECTED FOR JEWISH EDUCATION PILOT PROJECT

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- Three Jewish communities -- Atlanta, Baltimore and Milwaukee -- have been selected by the Council for Initiatives in Jewish Education for an intensive three-to-five-year experiment in improving Jewish education.

The council's endeavor, some three years in the making, is to bring to each of the selected communities the best available resources and to help them locate funding for innovative programs.

The council's plan is for the three "lead communities" to function as laboratories, in a sense, in which new systems in community-wide collaboration will be tested and refined.

Members of the council hope the three projects will eventually produce a model for providing top-quality Jewish education that can be replicated in Jewish communities around the country.

"This is a partnership between the local community and CIJE," said Dr. Shulamith Elster, acting director of the council, adding that "each partner has some specific responsibility."

The council will be providing each lead community with access to both a team of consultants and the leadership of national agencies, all of whom will be available to assist with planning and programming.

For example, if a lead community defines as a goal attracting top education professionals and bolstering the training and retention of the professionals they already have in place, the council will bring in advisers from its co-sponsoring agencies to help work out a plan.

The co-sponsors are the Council of Jewish Federations, the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America and the Jewish Education Service of North America.

#### 'Will Provide Additional Momentum'

In addition, the council will have a full-time "field researcher" in each community to "monitor the process of change and provide the feedback that will make for more informed decisions," said Elster.

"We want to document the process of answering the questions 'What does it take to bring about change?' and 'How does change happen?'"

CIJE is also in the process of compiling a resource for educators called "The Best Practices Project."

The goal of the project, according to Elster, is to identify exemplary practices in various educational settings and to make them available, as role models, to educators across the country.

According to David Sarnat, executive director of the Atlanta Jewish Federation, the benefit of being a lead community "is not in terms of dollar resources, but the ability to engage in a process with the best around, which will remain available to us as we chart our course."

But, he added, Atlanta has been working on a major restructuring of its Jewish education system for the last couple of years.

"This puts a sanction on what we're doing. This is a very important kind of stroking that will provide additional momentum" for our plans, he said.

He added: "Much of what we're planning to do (as a lead community) we would have done anyhow."

### ARGENTINE MILITARY WELCOMES JEWS, IN REVERSAL OF ITS FORMER PRACTICE

By Victoria Verlichak

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- The Argentine military, long a bastion of anti-Semitism, is now welcoming Jews, in response to lobbying from the Argentine Jewish community.

"The Jewish community, like any other, has to be a part of the armed forces," the Argentine Joint Chiefs of Staff commander, Adm. Emilio Osses, told Jewish leaders at a recent meeting.

Given the long exclusion of Jews from the officers corps, the very fact of the meeting between Argentina's top military leader and the DAIA, the Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations, marked a sharp departure.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff brings together the heads of Argentina's army, navy and air force, and its function has been revitalized since the restoration of democracy in 1983.

The Argentine navy was part of the allied coalition that enforced the blockade against Iraq in the Persian Gulf War.

"We have to move toward being a normal country where we can live together," Osses told the Jewish leaders.

Observers viewed the meeting as a first step toward a new relationship between the Jewish community and the still influential armed forces.

Dr. Ruben Beraja, president of the DAIA, said further meetings with representatives of the armed forces were planned.

Few believe there will be a dramatic increase in the number of young Jews choosing a military career. Memories of Jewish prisoners being singled out for torture and beatings under the previous military dictatorship are still too fresh.

But the new attitude of the military was symbolically reflected in a benefit concert for the Israeli city of Ramat Gan last week when a regimental band stationed in Buenos Aires played a mix of Argentine and Israeli music to a delighted audience.

### NEXT YEAR, CONSIDER A SHMITTA-SITTER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- Once every seven years, residents of the ultra-Orthodox township of Bnei Brak throw away their house plants, not knowing how to deal with them during "shmita," the biblical "fallow year," when use of produce or other products from the land of Israel is prohibited.

But when Rosh Hashanah rolls around next year, ultra-Orthodox Jews will have an alternative, according to the Israeli daily Ma'ariv.

A solution to the problem was found by Arye Levkovitz, chairman of Judaism Park, which is located on the grounds of the Orthodox Ma'ayanai Yeshuah Hospital in Bnei Brak.

Levkovitz is offering to take in the plants, which will be cared for by a computer system programed to water them daily, with amounts calculated according to temperature and humidity.

The plants will be grown hydroponically, so that the vegetation does not touch the soil and can therefore be regarded as "furniture."

Fertilizers made into self-timing pellets will be added to the hydroponic mixture and delivered gradually throughout the year.

Boarding rates for the plant baby-sitting service have not yet been announced.