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**ARABS NOT RESPONDING SERIOUSLY  
TO PEACE IDEAS, ISRAELIS CHARGE**  
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- While Israel is offering practical proposals to advance the peace process, the Arabs are still dicker over non-substantive issues, ministers charged at Israel's weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he hoped the talks would enter a "substantive" stage this week after Arab delegates failed to address the specifics of Israel's new offers at the opening of the sixth round of negotiations last week.

In Washington, meanwhile, unconfirmed reports said the heads of the three Israeli negotiating teams would fly home this week for consultations, leaving behind members of their teams to continue the talks with Syria, Lebanon and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

At the Cabinet meeting here, Rabin praised the "good atmosphere" at the talks, particularly those involving Syria.

But Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer of the Labor Party said the Palestinians were stalling because of internal differences and an absence of a clear line of authority.

"The reality is they waste time on questions we view as unimportant while Israel started the process with gestures and is ready to immediately get into substance," Ben-Eliezer told reporters after the weekly Cabinet meeting.

"In my assessment, the source of disagreement among Palestinians stems from the absence of a source of authority and the inability to take a leadership decision to sit with us and get into substance," he said.

Similar disappointment was expressed by Interior Minister Arye Deri of Shas, who said the Arab side is "not serious, not ready and lacks a leadership ready to make decisions."

Meanwhile, Jewish and Druse residents of the Golan Heights joined at an "emergency session" in Katrin on Sunday to hear Labor and Likud politicians criticize Rabin's readiness for concessions to Syria by a partial withdrawal from the strategic plateau.

Labor Knesset member Avigdor Kahalani, leader of the parliamentary lobby for the Golan Heights, said Rabin's offer of returning "a few centimeters" of the heights to Syria invited demands by Damascus that Israel would not be able to meet.

Likud Knesset member Benjamin Netanyahu challenged the Syrians to give up their claim to the Golan Heights if they sincerely want peace.

**CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERE AT PEACE TALKS  
EXTENDS TO TREATMENT OF JOURNALISTS**By Cynthia Mann  
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- The new tone of openness and cordiality at the Arab-Israeli peace talks here has spilled over into the treatment of Middle Eastern reporters chronicling them.

For the first time, the Israelis have been translating and distributing all press materials in Arabic, including a bright blue booklet with Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin's picture on the front and his inaugural speech inside.

They also hosted a first-ever background briefing for the press in Arabic.

And that is not the only break with precedent.

On Friday, the Palestinian delegation held a briefing for the first time exclusively for the Israeli press. Most notably, it was conducted by spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi and Nabil Sha'ath, political adviser to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

In order to interview Sha'ath, who is based in the organization's Tunis headquarters, Israeli journalists until now have had to flout the Israeli ban on contact with representatives of terrorist organizations.

That has meant "playing games" such as having other newsmakers present. It also has meant risking that the interview would not be used, especially by Israel's government-controlled electronic media.

But only a week or two after the new Labor-led government announced it would soon ease the ban, Israeli reporters interviewed Sha'ath over coffee and cigarettes in a relaxed and candid atmosphere at the Grand Hotel here, in full view of an Israeli television camera.

**Syrians Are Now Cooperative**

Perhaps the biggest change, though, is the way the Syrian delegation is treating the Israeli news media.

In previous rounds of the peace talks, the Syrians barred Israeli journalists from their briefings and brushed off questions from those who managed to slip in. This time, the delegation is granting interviews to any Israelis who ask, the Israelis say.

And Israel is going out of its way to assist Arab journalists. Israeli officials say their Arab outreach reflects the recognition that sending a message of good will to the Arab world via the press could help lay a stronger foundation for the peace process.

As evidence of their seriousness, they have brought to the United States a liaison to the Arabic press who is an Egyptian-born Israeli working in Arabic programming for Israel Television.

"Here we are engaged in peacemaking in the Arab world, and we have no way of reaching out a hand, people to people," said Ruth Yaron, spokeswoman at Israel's Embassy here.

"Through the Arabs' own trusted journalists, (perhaps) we can engage the people on the streets" in Arab countries to see that "Israelis are not two-horned creatures and really want peace," she said.

Yaron said the time was "ripe" and "we decided to test the waters" by holding the Arabic briefing, which she said was a big success.

"We had real dialogue. Not all the questions were easy, but it was a very good atmosphere," she said.

The response to some of the changes in the overall atmosphere appears cautious.

"I report there is a different tone but I also report that it doesn't mean anything," since there has been "no progress yet on the real issues,"

said Maher Shalabi, a Palestinian reporter based in Jerusalem whose reports for the Middle East Broadcasting Center are transmitted throughout the Arab world.

"It's a beginning, but the people on the ground will decide if they feel there is a change," he said. "If the people are not happy, the peace process won't continue."

#### **Syrians Drink Israeli Coffee**

At a certain point in the process, echoed one Israeli official, all of the Arab leaders will have to turn to their own people to ratify the peace agreement. Israel's strategy therefore is to reach the people directly through the Arab media.

Muhammad Shtayyeh, an official with the Palestinian delegation, denied that the Israeli press briefing it hosted was a change in policy. "The Israelis never asked us before for a briefing as a group," he said.

But Ori Nir, Washington correspondent for the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, was one of several Israeli reporters present who disagreed that there was nothing new.

He said it was novel that the Palestinians made the effort to deal exclusively with the Israeli press and that there was direct participation by a representative of the PLO.

Drora Perl, a reporter for the Israeli daily Davar, said the tone of the meeting reflected the Palestinians' recognition that "a change in atmosphere is a prerequisite for making progress, that they need good will."

Nir of Ha'aretz said that easy access to Palestinians in Jerusalem has led to relations with the Israeli press that are comfortable and cordial. He stressed that the real change has been with the Syrians.

Perl of Davar said the change in the Syrians' tone was in part a sign of their responsiveness to the new head of the Israeli team negotiating with the Syrians, Itamar Rabinovich. They perceive Rabinovich, a scholar on the Middle East, to be more committed to making progress than his Likud predecessor, Yossi Ben-Aharon.

But she said the Syrians also were probably aware that continuing to "exclude Jews" from the briefings in Washington "would no longer be swallowed" politically.

But more important than the way they treat the Israeli press, said another Israeli journalist, is the way the Syrians are treating the Israeli delegation.

In previous rounds, the Syrian delegation refused to take its coffee breaks in the same room as the Israelis. But last week, said the reporter, the Syrians sat with the Israelis and drank coffee the Israelis had brought from home and brewed at the table.

#### **IDF RAIDS HEZBOLLAH BASE SECOND TIME By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- In what has become an ongoing campaign against terrorist targets, Israeli air force planes on Sunday raided a Hezbollah base near Jabal Safi in southern Lebanon.

All planes returned safely to base after the attack, the Israel Defense Force spokesman announced.

It was the second IDF raid on the base in a month. Israeli planes attacked the Jabal Safi installation on Aug. 3.

The Jabal Safi region is the site of many

camps belonging to the extremist Iranian-backed Hezbollah. It has been targeted by both Israeli airplane and helicopter strikes in retaliation for attacks on Israeli troops patrolling the security zone.

On Aug. 21, nine Israeli soldiers were wounded and one explosive-laden terrorist belonging to Hezbollah was blown to bits near the ruins of Beaufort Castle in southern Lebanon.

The terrorist was blown up when shots hit his knapsack, which was filled with explosives, believed intended to plant on the road. The Israelis were wounded by the same explosion.

Sunday's raid was the eighth by IDF planes on terrorist bases in Lebanon in the past month.

#### **IRAQI ATTACK BELIEVED UNLIKELY, BUT MILITARY STILL POSES THREAT By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- While Israeli experts think the chances of an imminent attack by Iraq are minimal, they nevertheless continue to be concerned about the country's considerable military strength.

According to figures quoted here, the Iraqi army still boasts 28 divisions, 2,000 tanks and 400 fighter planes, despite the battering it suffered by Western forces last year during the Persian Gulf War.

And it is believed that Iraq still possesses about 200 Scud missiles and an unspecified number of missile launchers. However, only some of the 200 missiles are of the Al-Hussein type, the only ones with a range capable of reaching Israel.

Experts here also point out that only part of the Iraqi nuclear weapons development program has been uncovered and destroyed, leaving questions about hidden materiel not unearthed or destroyed by U.N. investigators.

Israeli experts addressed the issue after the United States and its European allies put in place a "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq, demanding that Saddam Hussein cease all aircraft flights there.

The allies' aim is to prevent Iraqi air attacks on the rebellious Shi'ite population in that country's southern region.

Knowledgeable Israeli sources underscore that it is unlikely Saddam Hussein would attack Israel in retaliation for the allies' moves, noting that he has not made any such threats, as he did preceding the Gulf War.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said last week that there is a "very low" probability that Iraq would retaliate against new allied moves by attacking Israel.

Israel's former air force commander, reserve Maj. Gen. Avihu Bin-Nun, told army radio last week that the military significance of the allies' ultimatum to Saddam Hussein is quite limited.

He believes Hussein will refrain from engaging in a confrontation with the allies and suggested the Iraqi leader would not even resort to using his anti-air guns against the allies.

"The ups and downs in the tension in Iraq will continue as long as Saddam Hussein is in power, but it will have little to do with us," said Bin-Nun.

He said Hussein currently has no interest in involving Israel in the crisis.

But it was underscored that should Hussein change his mind and attack, Israel would not hesitate this time to react accordingly, and it would not have any technical problem reaching "any place in Iraq," said Bin-Nun.

**WJC MEETS WITH BALKAN FACTIONS,  
WILL CONDUCT MISSION TO REGION**

By Lee Levitt

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- An international "mission of conscience," led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel, is to visit the republics of the former Yugoslavia to investigate allegations of human rights atrocities arising out of the conflict in the Balkans.

The delegation, expected to leave in the next couple of weeks, intends to fly in by helicopter at short notice to visit detention camps.

Wiesel, a survivor of two concentration camps, wants also to see a commission of inquiry and a tribunal set up "to charge those who commit these crimes with crimes against humanity."

The planned mission comes in the wake of an agreement by Radovan Karadzic, the Serbian leader in Bosnia-Herzegovina, to close the disputed detention camps, where Moslem civilians reportedly have been held in inhuman conditions.

Karadzic's promise was made during an extraordinary meeting set up by the World Jewish Congress with Dobrica Cosic, president of the truncated Yugoslav federation, which now includes only the republics of Serbia and Montenegro.

The meeting occurred last week during a peace conference convened here by the United Nations and European Community to halt the fighting in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Leaders of the various Serbian, Croatian and Moslem factions involved in the Yugoslav imbroglio took time out of the conference to meet here with a WJC delegation headed by Wiesel.

Among those the group met with were the president of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic; the Moslem president of Bosnia, Alija Izetbegovic; Yugoslav President Cosic; and Karadzic of the Bosnian Serbs.

**'All Sides Were Far From Innocent'**

Describing the meetings, Wiesel said, "Each person we met, I asked bluntly a simple question: 'Can you give me your word of honor there are no concentration camps on your territory?' All of them said 'no.'"

Though some said that the Serbs had been committing terrible atrocities, "we heard, to different degrees, all sides were far from innocent," Wiesel said during a news conference at the Institute of Jewish Affairs here.

Explaining the purpose of the "mission of conscience," Wiesel said, "We felt as Jews we should be present to witness human suffering."

The mission, which is to include members of the WJC and "men and women of conscience from several countries," has been promised "total freedom of movement," he said.

"We will decide which camp to visit and when to go where," he said. "We won't tell them until the very last minute where we want to go."

"If, during the mission, we feel we are being abused or deceived, we will leave straight away," he said.

Comparing the situation in the region to the Nazi terror perpetrated against the Jews 50 years ago, Wiesel said he believed in using the past as a reference point rather than as an analogy.

Though he referred to the camps as concentration camps, Wiesel has criticized the use of the words 'genocide' and 'Holocaust' to describe the "ethnic cleansing" campaign being mounted by the Serbs in Bosnia.

Israel Singer, secretary-general of the WJC, said: "To absent ourselves from an opportunity to issue a moral voice would be responding with silence to something which is being bandied about as abhorrent. We have moral authority. That's all we can bring to bear."

In Los Angeles, meanwhile, the Simon Wiesenthal Center issued a statement saying that "draconian" curbs imposed recently on the non-Serbian population in Bosnia-Herzegovina were reminiscent of the Nuremberg racial laws promulgated by Nazi Germany.

The center was referring to a recent declaration of the Serbian "war presidency" in Bosnia imposing severe restrictions on the non-Serbian population of the municipality of Celinac. The declaration severely restricts non-Serbs' freedom of movement, assembly and communication.

Noting that it takes "no sides in the military conflict," the Wiesenthal Center said, "We strongly condemn the introduction of these draconian measures against civilian populations."

**GREEK TOURIST BOARD ISSUES  
BOOKLET ON JEWISH HERITAGE**

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- In an unprecedented move to boost Jewish tourism, the Greek National Tourist Organization has published a full-color, 16-page booklet on "Jewish Heritage in Greece."

The booklet, whose first run was 1,200,000 copies, is published in Greek, English, French and German.

In addition, excerpts from the booklet are also published in the Olympic Airways inflight magazine, Kinissi.

The booklet, which will be distributed worldwide through the offices of the Greek Tourist Organization, refers to sites of historical interest to Jews and traces Greek Jewish history for the past 2,300 years.

Although the initiative was taken by the Greek Tourist Organization, the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece provided most of the pictures and text.

Greece is reportedly the first and so far the only European country to publish a special booklet on its Jewish heritage. Its aim is to attract Jewish travelers to Greece.

Nissim Mais, the president of the Central Board of Jewish Communities, said "the Jewish community is more than satisfied" with the initiative of the National Tourist Board.

One of the main attractions pointed out in the booklet is a wartime letter sent by Archbishop Damaskinos to SS Gen. Jurgen Stroop, the German commander in Greece during World War II, protesting the deportation of Greek Jews.

The letter, which was signed by 250 personalities and organizations from all walks of life, triggered the rage of Stroop, who threatened the archbishop with a firing squad.

Stroop, who in April 1943 was commander in Warsaw during the ghetto uprising, took over SS command in Athens in September 1943.

He issued a regulation on Oct. 3, 1943, requiring Jews to register and ruling that any Jew who did not report to the Germans within five days would be shot, as would any non-Jew sheltering a Jew.

More than 60,000 Greek Jews were killed in the Holocaust, most in Auschwitz. There were 76,000 Jews in Greece before the war.

**GERMAN JEWS APPEAL TO KOHL  
TO CURB NEO-NAZI VIOLENCE**

By David Kantor

BONN, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- Jewish groups have appealed to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to take whatever measures are necessary to curb neo-Nazi violence in the country.

The appeals from the Central Council of German Jews and other German Jewish groups came as anti-immigrant rioting escalated over the weekend throughout eastern Germany.

Israel Radio reported Sunday that Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss sent a letter to his German counterpart urging an end to the violence.

Weiss, 57, a Holocaust survivor, said he had sent the letter because of "very dark memories" of the past.

Messages of protest to the German chancellor were also sent by B'nai B'rith chapters in Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich and Cologne.

Thousands marched in an anti-racism protest in Rostock on Saturday after nearly a week of rioting in the northern port city, where neo-Nazis firebombed a hostel for asylum-seekers Aug. 24.

At least 10 new attacks were reported Friday and Saturday on refugee hostels.

Fifteen persons were arrested during attacks on hostels in the states of Brandenburg and Upper Saxony. In Potsdam, capital of Brandenburg, about 100 neo-Nazis took to the streets Friday night, attempting to demolish cars. They were dispersed quickly by a large police contingent.

Another focus of extremist right-wing attack was the federal state of Mecklenburg, where Rostock is situated.

While attackers burned down the refugee asylum there, police reportedly had stood idly by, a few hundred yards away, claiming they had insufficient personnel to repel the attackers.

In all but two cases, prompt police intervention prevented the vandals from harming the refugees or causing material damage. Seventeen persons were arrested Saturday in Stendal, in Brandenburg state, for throwing firebombs at a refugee hostel.

In Cottbus, also in Brandenburg, about 200 neo-Nazis attempting to storm a hostel were blocked by heavy police reinforcements who arrested 15 persons.

Police officials have announced they may press charges against some American and French television crews for allegedly asking youngsters to give the Nazi salute for the cameras.

The Jewish community weekly Allgemeine said the behavior of the people of Rostock, many of whom cheered on the neo-Nazi vandals, was reminiscent of the popular backing enjoyed by the Nazis in the 1930s when they launched their anti-Jewish campaign.

**VANDALS HIT MUNICH JEWISH CEMETERY**

BONN, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- Vandals desecrated the old Jewish cemetery in Munich last week.

The incident is believed to have occurred Aug. 26, according to local police, who reported the incident two days later.

The police said 15 gravestones were overturned and others damaged.

On the same day as the desecration at the cemetery, a burglary was committed at the Munich apartment of the cemetery guard.

Police are investigating a possible connection between the two cases.

**CANADIAN HATE LINE OPERATOR  
GETS 2 MONTHS IN JAIL, \$2,500 FINE**

By Gary Pogrow

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Aug. 30 (JTA) -- The operator of a telephone hate line, Canadian Liberty Net, has been sentenced to two months in jail and fined \$2,500 (Canadian).

In addition to the sentence meted out to Anthony McAleer, federal Justice Max Teitelbaum fined Canadian Liberty Net itself \$5,000. And the judge warned that if McAleer does not pay his personal fine, he will spend another month in jail.

Michael Elterman, spokesman for the Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region, was pleased with the judge's decision. "We appreciate that the Canadian system works," he said.

The sentence follows two court orders against the hate line.

In July, Teitelbaum found Canadian Liberty Net to be in contempt of court for continuing to operate, after federal Justice Francis Muldoon ordered it shut down in March.

Rather than shut down, McAleer had moved his base of operations from Vancouver to Bellingham, Wash., and changed its name to Canadian Liberty Net in Exile. He continued to use the Vancouver phone line to refer callers to the Bellingham number.

Judge Teitelbaum ordered McAleer and Canadian Liberty Net to stop disseminating its hate messages while a federal human rights tribunal conducted a hearing into whether the telephone line, which has attacked Jews, blacks and non-white immigrants, was violating the Canadian Human Rights Act.

**Boasted He Is A Racist**

McAleer is being represented by attorney Douglas Christie, whose clientele includes virtually every Canadian neo-Nazi or alleged Nazi war criminal brought to trial in this country.

As a result of the court's latest decision, Christie said he will request that the human rights tribunal adjourn because the subject of its investigations is in jail.

Christie expressed his displeasure that McAleer had been jailed before the tribunal had ruled on whether the phone line violated the Human Rights Act.

After last week's sentencing, McAleer defiantly boasted, "I am a racist. There are differences between the races. And the judge deliberately tried to circumvent that."

Canadian Liberty Net shares a mailbox with a Vancouver neo-Nazi Skinhead group, ARM Skins.

McAleer initially refused to reveal any of the telephone line's contributors, but Justice Teitelbaum ordered him to do so, threatening him with another contempt order.

McAleer complied, saying his contributors included Canadian Holocaust revisionist Ernst Zundel; U.S. neo-Nazi leaders Tom and John Metzger; Janice Long, the wife of Terry Long, who heads the Canadian branch of the Church of Jesus Christ Aryan Nations in Alberta; Heritage Front, an Ontario group; and the National Alliance from Virginia.

Justice Teitelbaum, in his sentencing last week, emphasized that his decision was not meant to make "the Canadian Liberty Net or McAleer speechless."

But Teitelbaum underlined that McAleer had "purposely and deliberately planned a method" of "preaching hatred."