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**RABIN SAYS JEWS SHOULD FOSTER
U.S.-ISRAELI TIES IN 'POSITIVE WAY'**

By Sam Skolnik

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- The American Jewish community should continue in its efforts to strengthen U.S.-Israeli ties, but should do so in a "positive way," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday.

Addressing the 36th biennial convention of B'nai B'rith International via satellite, Rabin appeared to be trying to dispel the impression that he is upset with the American Jewish community at large.

That impression arose during the prime minister's visit to the United States last month, during which he criticized the tactics used by American Jewish groups in lobbying the Bush administration for the loan guarantee package sought by Israel.

He said at the time that differences between the U.S. and Israeli governments should be managed in Jerusalem rather than by American Jewish officials.

Asked after his speech Monday to clarify his stand on the advocacy role of American Jewish groups on behalf of Israel, Rabin said he has learned to "appreciate and admire the devotion of the Jewish community in the United States."

He said his U.S. remarks were made "in relationship to one organization and not to the Jewish community of the United States" as a whole.

The organization Rabin referred to is widely believed to be AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, whose leaders met with Rabin in mid-August. It was reported then that Rabin sharply criticized AIPAC for straining U.S.-Israeli ties over the loan guarantee issue.

Lost Chance To 'Put This Issue To Rest'

But his apparent attempt Monday to put the blame on AIPAC specifically did not mollify some American Jewish organizational leaders, among them Seymour Reich, immediate past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"I'm bewildered by why he persists in singling out AIPAC. He's going to undermine one of the most effective instruments of the American Jewish community," said Reich.

"He's lost an opportunity to put this issue to rest," the Jewish leader said. "Instead, he inflamed it."

Daniel Mariaschin, director of international and government affairs for B'nai B'rith, was less concerned by Rabin's remarks on this topic.

"The traditional relationship between Israel and the American Jewish community will continue as it has the last number of decades," he said. "I don't foresee any drastic new directions in the relationship."

Rabin's speech, which was followed by questions posed by B'nai B'rith President Kent Schiner, focused on the Middle East peace talks.

The prime minister said that the latest round of negotiations in Washington, which recessed Sept. 3, had left him feeling optimistic though cautious.

"I believe the atmosphere has changed," he

said. "We are hopeful, but we don't even know the obstacles that still lie ahead in our effort to start the peacemaking process."

Concerning Syria, Rabin reiterated that Israel is willing to accept the applicability of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to the disputed Golan Heights, a position his predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, refused to take.

The resolutions call for the return of land seized by Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967, in exchange for peace.

Syrians Don't Want 'Full Peace'

But the prime minister complained that Syria was not yet interested in discussing a "full peace" with Israel.

"Even for a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights, they are ready only for a peace agreement, but not for a normalized relationship -- not a peace treaty, not open boundaries, not embassies, not a commercial and cultural relationship," he said.

Rabin also contended that Israel had advanced the negotiations with the Palestinians by proposing a comprehensive autonomy plan in the administered territories, with Palestinian elections to take place as early as next April.

The convention delegates were generally optimistic about the improved chances for peace, according to Mariaschin of B'nai B'rith. "Even among the cynics and skeptics among us, there is a sense coming out of the talks that even though there's a long road ahead, there is cause for optimism," he said.

The convention is also scheduled to hear addresses Tuesday by President Bush and Wednesday by Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential nominee.

**ISRAEL NOW IN FAVOR OF E.C. ROLE
IN ARMS CONTROL TALKS, SAYS PERES**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Israel no longer objects to European participation in the multilateral peace talks on arms control.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, on a visit to Britain, said the 2-month-old Israel government had lifted the veto imposed by the former Likud administration on Europe's taking part in the discussions. The curbs, imposed by the Likud out of lack of confidence in Europe's policies, had cast a long shadow on Israeli-European relations.

Peres was to meet in London with British Prime Minister John Major and Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd. The next stop for Israel's foreign minister is France, where he is scheduled to meet with President Francois Mitterrand, an old friend.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is also due for a high-level visit abroad. He is scheduled to travel next week to Bonn for meetings with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other German leaders.

The prime minister is expected to discuss Israel's request for loan guarantees from Germany, following President Bush's agreement to provide guarantees for up to \$10 billion in loans to aid immigrant absorption.

News reports in Germany said secret talks have been taking place on Israel's request for 10 billion marks (\$7 billion) in credit and financial

assistance. They said the German side had already committed itself to 2 billion marks (\$1.4 billion) in aid.

The Germany Foreign Ministry was quick to deny the report. And Israeli diplomats refused comment.

While in Germany, Rabin will attend a meeting of the Socialist International.

Another diplomatic trip is to take place on Friday, when Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin travels to Cairo to discuss the peace process with Egyptian leaders. Beilin is scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Amre Moussa and presidential adviser Osama el-Baz.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent David Kantor in Bonn.)

BUDGET IS PRESENTED TO CABINET, LAUNCHING A DEBATE ON PRIORITIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Sparring over national priorities began in earnest this week as the Israeli government's 1993 budget proposal came under fire from within the coalition.

Presenting the 97.6 billion shekel (\$41 billion) budget to the Cabinet on Sunday, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat praised it as a good plan that reflects "the new national order of priorities."

Shohat, who came to the Cabinet meeting from a stay at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center at Ein Kerem for treatment of a leg infection, said the budget is aimed at fostering economic growth and long-term job expansion.

Proposing an overall drop of some \$4 billion from the current year, the budget slashes \$375 million from several ministries, particularly funds used to build housing in the administered territories. The savings are channeled to investments in infrastructure and education.

Proposed cuts in funds for religious institutions as well as a shift in allocations from the territories into Israel proper prompted a threat by Interior Minister Arye Deri of the fervently Orthodox Shas party to quit the government.

The draft budget chops \$20.8 million in grants to yeshivot, \$6.3 million from the religious councils as well as \$16.7 million from allocations to the Jewish Agency Settlement Department.

The new budget foresees an unemployment rate of 10.7 percent, only a slight drop from the current rate of 11.1 percent. This prompted criticism even from members of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labor Party.

Shimon Shetreet, minister of economic planning, said the budget fails to respond to the plight of the lower strata of Israeli society. He called for more funds to fight unemployment and improve social welfare.

Similarly, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said the budget "stammers" and does not meet real needs.

Meretz Ministers Unhappy

Ministers of Labor's left-wing coalition partner, the Meretz bloc, had threatened to vote against the budget. But they sounded less combative after a meeting with Rabin, who, they said, assured them the budget would answer a number of "social needs."

But Energy Minister Amnon Rubinstein of Meretz said a major stumbling bloc remains in the form of government ownership of 42,000 housing units, a legacy of the pledge by the former Likud

government to purchase apartments that had not been sold in the free market.

"This number should be reduced, either by halting the building of those flats or selling them at reduced prices," said Rubinstein.

Knesset member Ran Cohen of Meretz, deputy minister of housing, urged a \$2 billion cut in allocations for building in the territories and abolition of reductions in the employers tax, to create resources for reducing the rate of employment to below 10 percent.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel criticized the draft budget for falling short in investment in infrastructure to ensure economic growth and reduction in unemployment over the longer term.

He urged cuts in defense and housing. The draft budget cuts housing allocations to about \$3 billion, the level at which it stood before the wave of aliyah began in late 1989. The defense budget was cut by \$83 million.

The Cabinet was scheduled to meet Tuesday to approve the new budget after a bargaining process between the ministries. Once approved, it goes to the Knesset, where it is likely to undergo a lengthy process of discussion before becoming a binding document.

IDF KILLS FLEEING GERMAN TOURIST

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- An Israeli army patrol shot and killed a German tourist Saturday after he tried to cross the border into Jordan.

Israeli soldiers spotted the tourist, identified as Hans Thomas Peter Reit Schausen, 31, attempting to cross the frontier near the Dead Sea, the Israel Defense Force spokesman said.

The patrol ordered him to stop, and fired several warning shots into the air. When the man failed to halt, the soldiers fired at him.

News reports say Schausen arrived in Israel on April 23. Reportedly destitute, he visited the German Embassy on May 5 to ask for help.

The embassy staff had been advised the man was missing and might find his way to Israel, the reports said. Officials contacted his family in Germany and received in reply a cable containing biblical quotations.

The incident is under investigation.

KESSIM FAIL TO WIN RECOGNITION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Having failed to win full-fledged recognition from Israel's two chief rabbis, the Ethiopian Jewish community's religious leaders have resumed a sit-in demonstration at the Prime Minister's Office.

The religious leaders, known as kessim, are seeking the authority granted rabbis in Israel to perform marriages and divorces. Their request has met with consistent refusal on the part of Israel's chief rabbinical council.

Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapiro told the kessim Monday that they were not sufficiently knowledgeable to carry out these duties and at most would be permitted to act as religious guides, pending a review of the matter.

The Ethiopian clerics rejected his offer to set up a committee to study the issue and instead left Hechal Shlomo, the seat of the Chief Rabbi, for the Rose Garden, opposite the Prime Minister's Office, to continue their 10-day protest.

CONCERNED ABOUT NEO-NAZI VIOLENCE, JEWS RALLY BEHIND EUROPEAN TREATY

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Concern over recent manifestations of neo-Nazi violence and anti-Semitism has prompted European Jewish leaders to rally support for the proposed treaty on a European political and economic union.

They believe a unified Europe is a potent weapon against the nationalist chauvinism that has been seen in many of the recent violent demonstrations against foreigners seeking asylum in Germany.

The organized Jewish community here has expressed support for the Maastricht accord on European union as France prepares to hold a nationwide referendum on the treaty Sept. 20.

A firm voice in favor of the union is Jean Kahn, head of CRIF, the representative body of French Jewish groups, although the community as a whole has taken a more muted stand in the vote on Europe's future.

The European Jewish Congress, an affiliate of the World Jewish Congress, has also come out strongly in favor of a yes vote.

In a carefully worded statement, the board of CRIF said that the "collapse of communism, the exacerbation of nationalistic, ethnic and religious passions make the pursuit of building Europe a necessity."

The Maastricht treaty, it said, facilitates the transition from a community of European nations to "the political, economic and monetary union of a European whole, able to prevent conflicts and to affirm itself in the world of the next century."

Without explicitly asking Jews to cast an affirmative vote on the Sept. 20 referendum, the CRIF statement called on voters to "ponder all the elements" at stake.

Mitterrand Expresses 'Indignation'

Serge Cwajgenbaum, secretary-general of the European Jewish Congress, which is based here, is advocating ratification of the treaty as a path toward increased democracy in Europe.

"The continuing racist attacks in Rostock and riots in two dozen other cities in Germany by extreme right-wing elements are worrying and shocking events," he said.

He pointed out that in the same week, assailants damaged a Jewish memorial in Berlin, 200 graves were desecrated at a Jewish cemetery in the French region of Alsace and a synagogue was torched in the French town of Saint-Avoid.

"An obvious contamination is spreading, stimulated by the too-little and too-late reactions of the responsible authorities, particularly in Germany," said Cwajgenbaum.

He called on the European Parliament to denounce these "vicious" attacks. He said his organization will act in France, Germany and elsewhere in Europe "to fight against this blind violence," and urged, "as an alternative," the ratification of the Maastricht treaty as a path toward pursuit of "peace and democracy in Europe."

Meanwhile, French President Francois Mitterrand decried the desecration of the Jewish cemetery in the Alsatian town of Herrlisheim.

In a letter to CRIF leader Kahn, Mitterrand expressed "feelings of revolt and indignation" at the incident and his "strong wish" to see the perpetrators punished.

But police investigators say the culprits will be difficult to find for lack of clues.

In Rome, the leader of the Italian Jewish community said that the upsurge of racism and anti-Semitism in Germany and elsewhere in Europe is a threat not only to Jews and other minorities.

'A Warning To The Whole Of Europe'

"What we are witnessing is a warning to the whole of Europe," Tullia Zevi, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

She termed anti-Semitism "an instrument of subversion. What we are seeing is a re-emergence of the destructive and authoritarian right, of that right wing which 50 years ago produced horrors not only against us Jews, but also against the political opposition."

Zevi warned against minimizing the danger from the right in today's Europe.

"The real danger is that groups of neo-Nazis find strength and encouragement in the conviction of being interpreters and actors of ideas and behavior that others do not dare to show, but at the same time agree with.

"This is what happened in Germany in the 1930s," she recalled. "Who rose up against Kristallnacht? Woe unto us if we remain indifferent."

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Ruth E. Gruber in Rome.)

MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD IN MUNICH FOR ISRAELIS SLAIN 20 YEARS AGO

By David Kantor

BONN, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- A commemorative service was held last Friday at the Olympic Village in Munich for the 11 Israeli athletes who were killed in a hostage-taking attack by Arab terrorists during the 1972 summer Olympics.

The ceremony was organized by the German Olympic Committee, which was represented by its president, Willi Daume.

Among the Israelis present were the widows of slain athletes Andre Spitzer and Yosef Romano and the fathers of slain athletes Eliezer Halfin and Mark Slavin.

Nachum Rogel, who competed recently at the summer Olympics in Barcelona, represented active Israeli athletes. Shlomit Tor of the Israeli Olympic Committee also attended the commemoration.

After laying a wreath at the memorial plaque for the 11 Israelis, the participants drove along the route taken by the terrorists and their hostages to the Furstenfeldbruck airfield near Munich.

It is there, crowded in two helicopters with the terrorists who captured them, that most victims were killed during an unsuccessful rescue attempt by German police.

The terrorists were members of the so-called Black September group, an affiliate of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Participants at last Friday's ceremony also laid a wreath at the gravestone of the German policeman who was killed during the rescue attempt.

The German media gave prominence to the commemorative ceremonies, and many publications carried detailed reports on the events of 20 years ago.

Meanwhile, the relatives of the victims have demanded a full investigation into the failed attack and have asked for substantial financial compensation.

CUOMO CHARMS 'EM IN ISRAEL, CREATING A BIT OF NOSTALGIA

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- New York Gov. Mario Cuomo may not be running for the U.S. presidency, but for many New York-born Israelis, Mario is still their man.

Last week, several hundred transplanted New Yorkers attended a picnic in honor of the governor and his wife, Mathilde, who were visiting Israel for the first time.

The Sept. 3 event, which was sponsored by the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel and the Jerusalem municipality, had the homespun feel of a Sunday outing in the park, New York style.

Hot dogs and corn-on-the-cob were there for the asking, as were pieces of juicy watermelon. Everyone spoke English, except for the kids with catchers' mitts, who interspersed American baseball slang with rapid-fire Hebrew.

Cuomo, long considered a staunch supporter of Israel, addressed the crowd with the straightforward, easygoing manner that has become his trademark. With a mischievous smile on his face, he quipped, "I'm here to see if any of you New Yorkers owe back taxes."

On a more serious note, he said, "For Mathilde and me, this is the most unforgettable trip we have ever taken. Some things speak for themselves. Like Jerusalem. Like Israel. Until you come here, you know the words but don't understand the music."

The governor noted that New York state is one of this country's strongest trading partners. "We send \$800 million in trade to Israel every year, and we are one of Israel's favorite customers in the U.S. In all, 22 percent of Israel's imports come from New York," he said.

'Came Out Of Respect For Israel'

While acknowledging that a main goal of the visit was to strengthen his state's economic ties with Israel, "we really came out of respect for the people of Jerusalem, out of respect for Israel," he said.

With a glance at his host, Cuomo said, "Your mayor is an institution. Remember Fiorello La Guardia? Not even he can compare to Teddy Kollek."

But even Kollek is not popular with all of his constituents. A handful of hecklers interrupted the proceedings by demanding that Jews be allowed to settle in what was once East Jerusalem.

One shouted, "Mayor Kollek, why can Jews live anywhere in New York, but not anywhere in Jerusalem?" Another man called him a racist.

Kollek responded with his usual bite: "I suggest you go straight away and live in Harlem," he told the protesters.

Cuomo was a bit more diplomatic. "Protests make me feel at home. If you want to greet somebody from New York, you should bring along a little bit of tsuris" (trouble).

Following the speeches, both Cuomo and Kollek stepped down and mingled with people in the crowd.

"These are two great men, Mario and Teddy," said Chris Feldman, formerly of the Bronx.

"It's not every day that you get the chance to meet the governor of New York," beamed Dina Zlotogorski, who used to live on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

JEWISH FOOD IS REALLY COOKING AT JERUSALEM CUISINE CONVENTION

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- The Israeli capital was really cooking this week as the first Jerusalem International Convention of Jewish Cuisine got off to a mouth-watering start Sunday.

Rather than kick off the five-day event in a hotel or convention center, opening night festivities took place in a neighborhood courtyard adjacent to the Machaneh Yehuda open-air market. To bolster its native Israeli authenticity, the organizers commissioned 30 local families to cater the event.

The families, who live in the ethnically rich neighborhoods of Zichron Tuva and Lev ha-Ir, spent days in their kitchens preparing the feast. Using recipes originating in Yemen, Kurdistan and Morocco, they produced enough kubeh, couscous, felafel and stuffed grape leaves to feed a small army.

Still, the women in aprons and head scarves seemed a bit shocked when nearly 1,000 people turned up in their neighborhood's central courtyard. The cool evening breeze and the promise of food seemed to attract everyone from Mayor Teddy Kollek to curious local residents, who brought out chairs and joined the festivities.

The event's organizers, on the other hand, were far from surprised by the turnout.

"Israelis enjoy food, so we expected a large response," said Sheryl Roosth, who promoted the convention. "What better place to enjoy the roots of Jewish cooking than in a real neighborhood in Jerusalem?"

'The Food Of Our Mothers'

"Food like this, and indeed all Jewish cuisine, is the food of our mothers. If we don't preserve it, it will be lost," said Zev Birger, director of Jerusalem Fairs and Conventions.

"The main aim of the convention is to study, understand and document Jewish cuisine from a practical and academic perspective. The recipes and the customs behind them are valuable historical tools, as well as a living part of our culture," he said.

The convention has attracted an international array of Jewish food experts, including cookbook author Evelyn Rose, chef Shalom Kadosh and journalist Daniel Rogov, who will tackle everything from the political implications of food to cooking workshops.

The lectures address every angle of modern Jewish life, from kosher airplane food to rations in the Israel Defense Force. They also explore the numerous ways Jews around the world prepare food for Shabbat and the holidays.

Almost every Jewish community has its own version of cholent, for example, with its own distinctive ingredients and seasoning.

The common denominator: a nourishing one-pot meal cooked slowly for almost 24 hours and served on Shabbat.

It is this kind of common thread that defines Jewish cuisine, no matter how diverse the food or culture, explained Rogov, who writes a newspaper column.

"When most people think of kosher food, they think of gefilte fish, kishke and latkes," he said, "but this is only a small percentage of Jewish cuisine in the world."

"When you think about it," he said, "Jewish cuisine is as varied as its people."