

**ACCORD WITH JORDAN ON AGENDA
SEEN AS A 'MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH'**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Israeli policy-makers have described an agreement reached with Jordan on an agenda for the next round of peace talks as a "major breakthrough" and a model for negotiations with Syria.

Publication of the contents of the agreement in the Jordanian press was seen here as an indication it has been approved by King Hussein, opening the way for substantive negotiations when the talks resume in Washington next week.

Its most important clause is a declaration of intent that efforts by the parties are likely to be concluded by a "peace treaty," the highest form of peace in the diplomatic lexicon.

Notwithstanding the consensus among Arab states on the need for a comprehensive settlement, Jordan consulted neither the Syrians nor the Palestinians before agreeing to the "peace treaty" language, political sources in Jerusalem said.

Several government ministers spoke in upbeat terms after hearing a report at the weekly Cabinet meeting Sunday on the progress of the peace talks, which recessed Oct. 28 and will resume Nov. 9, following the U.S. elections.

Environment Minister Ora Namir said she was now "more optimistic about the peace talks."

A senior Jordanian official was quoted Sunday from Amman as saying Israeli joy over what it regarded as "a great victory" was premature; in any case, Jordan would make no separate agreements without Syria and the Palestinians.

But the official confirmed that progress was reached in last week's round of talks.

Border Disputes To Be Discussed

Israel, for its part, agreed at the talks to discuss territorial demands made by Jordan in the Jordan Valley and the Arava region of the Negev. The land areas in controversy are marginal.

Amman claims a 128-square mile area south of the Dead Sea, which, if surrendered, would mean loss of agricultural land for several kibbutzim in the Arava.

The Jordanian claim is based on the fact that the border determined by British Mandate authorities in September 1922 was never marked on the ground.

In the north, Amman claims Israel holds about 350 acres of its territory just south of the Sea of Galilee in the Naharayim region.

Israel, for its part, claims a small area in the Eilat region currently held by Jordan.

In the accord reached last week, Jordan reportedly agreed that the first item on the agenda of the next round of talks would be the sharing of water resources.

The Jordanians also agreed that the tacit cooperation already existing between the two countries would be formalized in any future peace treaty.

Israel and Jordan are already discussing construction of a canal connecting the Red Sea and the Dead Sea to create a 50-megawatt plant that would generate power by exploiting the drop in altitude between the two bodies of water,

according to a report in the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz.

A canal would also enable regulation of the water level of the Dead Sea, which has been drying out in recent years.

Planners envision joint tourism projects in the area, the report said.

In their joint document, Israel and Jordan also agreed to discuss demilitarization of the Middle East within the framework of a permanent and comprehensive peace agreement.

This is viewed as an achievement, in the context of standing Israeli policy to make regional arms control part of a comprehensive peace agreement.

Israeli sources in Jerusalem dismissed a report in the French newspaper Liberation that Israel had agreed to allow Palestinian refugees to return to the West Bank and grant them reparations, and to freeze settlement-building completely in the administered territories.

**TALKS ON MIDEAST ECONOMIC ISSUES
ARE DESCRIBED AS MODERATE SUCCESS**
By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Two days of multilateral talks on Middle East economic issues ended here Friday without a final statement but are being regarded as a moderate success.

The governor of the Bank of Israel, Jacob Frenkel, singled out for praise a proposal for a bank for regional development, put forward by both France and Egypt.

It was only opposition from Saudi Arabia that prevented Egypt from advocating its proposal more vigorously, Israeli delegates said.

Egyptian delegation head Merbat Tallawi said wide participation in the conference from both within the region and outside it demonstrated the importance of stability in the Middle East to the rest of the world.

She also called for confidence-building measures, such as allowing Palestinians to have their own banks.

Delegates agreed to add trade, agriculture and energy to the issues under discussion.

These now also include tourism, communications, training for Palestinians in administration during the transitional period of autonomy, enhancing the level of Palestinian universities through agreements with European institutes of higher learning, and business and cultural development.

The talks opened last Thursday only after a new head was named for the Palestinian negotiating team to replace a delegate considered unacceptable by Israel.

Yusuf Sayagh, a member of the Palestine National Council, the so-called parliament of the Palestine Liberation Organization, developed a case of diplomatic flu, enabling a successor more acceptable to the Israelis, Zeyn Mayasi, to head the delegation.

Chairman David Gor Booth of Britain said just the presence of Israelis and Arabs at the negotiating table made the talks a success. Israel had boycotted an earlier round of the talks.

The next round of talks is tentatively scheduled to be held in Rome next March.

VIOLENCE AGAIN GRIPS TERRITORIES AS JEW DIES FROM ATTACK IN JENIN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- As a Jewish settler killed in a terror attack was buried Sunday, new violence erupted in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

The latest explosions of terror activity came as Motti Biton, 32, was laid to rest in Haifa, after his death Friday of gunshot wounds inflicted in the West Bank town of Jenin.

In two daylight attacks in a busy Arab neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem, assailants set an Israeli police car on fire and threw rocks at a Jewish driver, injuring him in the head.

They torched the police car in the parking lot of Israeli police headquarters in Jerusalem's Sheik Jarrah neighborhood, smashing windows and scratching bodies of eight other cars. The attack took place in a heavily guarded area.

On a nearby road frequently traveled by Jewish drivers, assailants threw rocks at the windshield of a car en route to Mount Scopus.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinians stoned soldiers, as well as Jewish-owned cars arriving at the Erez checkpoint to pick up workers for jobs in Israel proper. Security forces quickly quelled that riot, in which several cars were damaged.

The demonstration notwithstanding, about 35,000 Arab laborers crossed into Israel, the Israel Defense Force said.

A curfew continued to be imposed on the Wadi Ma'ali neighborhood of the West Bank town of Bethlehem, where a number of shots were fired Saturday night at an Israeli army lookout.

But the army lifted a weeklong curfew on Hebron following the killing last week of 1st Sgt. Shmuel Gersh and the wounding of another soldier while they stood guard duty at the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

Cries Of 'How Much Longer?'

The unrest threatened to jeopardize efforts by security forces to return the areas to the relative quiet that prevailed prior to a strike by Palestinian security prisoners.

The two-week hunger strike ended in mid-October with an agreement to investigate detainees' complaints. But continued violence has triggered fears the intifada is building momentum.

The recent violence has outraged residents of the administered territories.

Jewish settlers chanted "Death to the Arabs" at the gates of the Haifa cemetery where Biton's funeral turned into a protest against government security policies.

A rabbi representing the Jewish residents of the territories cried: "The Earth has given us a man, and the Earth has taken blood. And we cry: 'how much longer?'"

Security forces are holding a suspect in the shooting of Biton, who was struck as he shopped in a grocery store in Jenin on Oct. 27.

Mohammad Suleiman Turkeman, 19, of Jenin was picked up after it emerged that a terrorist was hit in the face when Biton's wife, Molly, sitting in the car, fired her pistol at the assailants. A second suspect is being sought.

The commander of the IDF Central Command, Maj. Gen. Danny Yatom, was present at the funeral. Paradoxically, the government asked one of its chief critics, Benny Katzover, head of the Samaria regional council, to represent it at the funeral.

ITAMAR RABINOVICH TO BE NEW ISRAELI ENVOY TO U.S.

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Middle East scholar Itamar Rabinovich is to be Israel's new ambassador to Washington, replacing Zalman Shoval.

Rabinovich will continue in his post as head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with Syria being held in Washington.

Rabinovich confirmed a headline report to this effect Sunday in the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot. He would not say exactly when he would take up the post, although it was reported that it could be at the end of the month.

Rabinovich is also presently rector of Tel Aviv University.

He was appointed chief negotiator to the talks with Syria in August by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, soon after Rabin assumed Israel's leadership post.

Rabinovich was chosen to succeed Yosef Ben-Aharon, who had previously been chief aide to former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Shoval is to end his service in Washington at the end of November, and Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres are pressing Rabinovich to take up the post as soon as possible after that.

The change would be particularly appropriate if a new administration is preparing to take office in Washington, Yediot Achronot reported.

RABIN HOLDS MEETINGS TO ENSURE GOVERNMENT SURVIVES KNESSET VOTE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin held meetings with party leaders Sunday in an attempt to ensure his Labor-led coalition government survives a no-confidence vote Monday over controversial remarks on religion by his education minister, Shulamit Aloni.

A combination of political horse-trading and face-saving statements appeared set to preserve coalition membership of the haredi (fervently Orthodox) Shas party in the face of pressure to resign over statements made by Aloni.

The crisis erupted some weeks ago after Aloni, who heads the left-wing Meretz bloc, made statements disparaging a literal reading of the biblical account of creation and proposing that God's name be omitted from a memorial prayer.

The statements offended Orthodox circles and were criticized in Labor Party circles, too, as needlessly offensive.

Shas originally demanded Aloni's removal from the sensitive Education Ministry. But the Sephardic haredi party subsequently softened its stance. Eleventh-hour negotiations centered on the scope of authority to be vested in the Shas deputy minister of education, Rabbi Moshe Maiya.

The Shas Council of Torah Sages convened Sunday evening to consider a proposal by Meretz under which Maiya would be involved in formulating the Jewish heritage curricula in non-Orthodox state schools but would not be in sole charge of this sensitive area.

It also was agreed that a special Cabinet meeting will be convened Monday.

Without directly upbraiding Aloni, the prime minister will call for greater sensitivity between coalition partners. For her part, Aloni will follow up by reiterating regret if statements she made offended religious sensibilities.

ANGER RUNS HIGH IN CROWN HEIGHTS AFTER VERDICT, BUT STREETS ARE CALM

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Anger and frustration are running high among Jews in Brooklyn's Crown Heights section following the acquittal of a black teen-ager in the August 1991 murder of Hasidic scholar Yankel Rosenbaum.

But aside from a few raucous rallies and scattered incidents of minor violence, the heavily Hasidic neighborhood has been mainly quiet since the Oct. 29 verdict, in sharp contrast to the riots that tore through the area when Rosenbaum was stabbed to death 14 months ago.

Leaders of the Lubavitch movement have discouraged those from inside and outside their community from venting their rage at the verdict through violence. They have instead pledged a peaceful response to what is universally regarded here as an act of terrible injustice.

Just hours after the verdict, Norman Rosenbaum, the slain scholar's brother, mounted a makeshift platform set up in the middle of a Crown Heights intersection to urge a peaceful response to the jury's decision.

"We must fight with chochma, binah and da'as to ensure that no more Jewish blood is spilled and that the blood of Yankel is avenged," he said, using the Hebrew words for wisdom, insight and understanding that form the acronym Chabad used by the Lubavitch movement.

It had been a long day for Rosenbaum, 35, who four hours earlier had heard a jury clear Lemrick Nelson, Jr. of all charges in the murder of his only sibling, Yankel.

Yankel Rosenbaum, a 29-year-old native of Melbourne, Australia, who had studying in Crown Heights, was stabbed to death by a rampaging mob of 20 young blacks on Aug. 19, 1991, the first of three nights of violence, arson and looting in Crown Heights.

Was Jury Intimidated?

Rosenbaum was murdered in retaliation for the accidental killing of Gavin Cato, a 6-year-old Caribbean-American boy, by the driver of a car in a motorcade escorting the Lubavitcher rebbe home from a cemetery visit outside Crown Heights.

Nelson, 17, had been found near the scene of Rosenbaum's stabbing with a bloody knife in his pocket and while in custody admitted to the act, according to police testimony.

And according to police, as well as other eyewitnesses, as Yankel Rosenbaum lay bleeding he identified Nelson as his attacker, saying, "You in the red shirt! Why did you do this to me?"

Still, the State Supreme Court jury acquitted Nelson of each of the four counts with which he had been charged: second degree, or intentional murder, murder with depraved indifference, and first- and second-degree manslaughter.

Jurors said that they thought that the six police officers who testified during the trial, which began Sept. 23, had lied.

"I have a terrible fear that the jury was intimidated by the politically correct thing to do," Norman Rosenbaum told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Nelson is so far the only member of the mob that attacked Rosenbaum to be indicted, a reality that has the community here feeling it has been betrayed by the mayor, the district attorney and the criminal justice system.

Said one woman the night of the verdict,

"The D.A. can't come up with the other 20 people because Jews don't riot. If Nelson had been found guilty, the city would be in flames."

Rabbi J.B. Spielman, chairman of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, said that the message in the verdict and in the district attorney not indicting any of the other participants in the mob that murdered Rosenbaum is that "the Jewish community is expendable."

Mayor And Groups Offer Rewards

After the verdict was announced at the State Supreme Court in downtown Brooklyn at about 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Norman Rosenbaum led about 300 Lubavitchers in a march across the Brooklyn Bridge to New York City Hall in downtown Manhattan, tying up rush-hour traffic.

When the procession reached City Hall, the demonstrators called for a meeting with Mayor David Dinkins, who failed to appear.

Instead, Dinkins issued a statement saying: "We cannot rest until the murder of Yankel Rosenbaum is solved and all involved in the attack on him are brought to full justice. I am assured by the Police Department that the investigation, which seeks to identify others involved in this tragedy, is being vigorously pursued."

The mayor offered a \$10,000 reward to anyone providing information leading to the conviction of the killer. The American Jewish Committee offered an additional \$5,000 reward, and the Anti-Defamation League said it would provide \$100,000.

But the mayor's offer did not seem to mollify the Jews of Crown Heights, who called on Dinkins to join them at their evening rally.

"We're not going to be appeased by some sort of token reward," said Rosenbaum. "Where is the mayor tonight?"

"The mayor may have his gorgeous mosaic," he said, citing a metaphor often used by Dinkins, "but we Jews are not part of it."

Rosenbaum also called Thursday night for a federal investigation into the case. He got his wish the following morning, when the U.S. Justice Department announced it would review the murder case for possible civil rights violations.

'We'll Get Justice'

The rally Thursday night was largely peaceful, as was another on Sunday that drew a crowd of several thousand. On Thursday night, the hundreds of police who had been dispatched to Crown Heights for the most part stood in their riot gear and looked on from a distance as the Jewish community rallied.

At one point, a large group of black teenagers began throwing rocks and large bottles at Hasidic men a few hundred feet away from the center of the rally.

As the Hasidim surged forward, police rushed in and held them back. One non-Lubavitcher, thought to be affiliated with the militant Kahane Chai group, was arrested.

Shortly after that, bottles and rocks rained down on the Jewish crowd from roofs above. One Lubavitcher, bleeding profusely from a cut on his hand, was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

There was anger and tension, but the evening passed peacefully, for the most part.

Meanwhile, Norman Rosenbaum told JTA that he would stay in New York for as long as it takes to convict his brother's murderers. "It's going to be long, hard and slow, but we'll get justice -- let me assure you of that," he said.

**1 IN 10 ITALIANS IS ANTI-SEMITIC,
SAYS POLL PUBLISHED IN MAGAZINE**

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- One in 10 Italians holds anti-Semitic views and believes that the Holocaust never happened, according to a new public opinion survey.

The survey, carried out by the Demoskopea polling organization and to be published Monday in the news weekly L'Espresso, grabbed headlines in the Italian media and mixed reactions from Italian Jewish leaders.

"What is most frightening in Italy and Europe are not the swastikas and Skinhead violence, but the silence of the people who look on," said Tullia Zevi, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities.

"Behind the open hostility there is a passivity and a vast submerged antipathy, whose limits are impalpable," she said.

"The most worrisome phenomenon emerging from this survey is the vast grey area of anti-Jewish stereotypes which stands behind open anti-Semitism," she said.

The survey of 1,064 people, from all walks of life between the ages of 14 and 79, showed that 10.5 percent agreed with the statement that "Jews are not nice and do not inspire faith." About the same percent said that Italy's 30,000 Jews should leave the country.

Some 10.5 percent of those interviewed would try to dissuade a son or daughter from marrying a Jew.

Some 9.2 percent said that "today in Italy there is too much talk about the extermination of the Jews during World War II." More than 9 percent said the Holocaust never happened.

And 34 percent said that Italian Jews "are not real Italians."

Some 56 percent of those interviewed said they believed that "Jews have a special relationship with money" and 42 percent said that "they should stop posing as victims of the Holocaust."

Two-thirds of those interviewed said that "Jews have a different mentality and way of life than other Italians."

"It's a mass of stereotypes," Rome's Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff commented in the Rome daily *Il Messaggero*.

"No, I am not afraid of that 10 percent who wants to kick the Jews out. We Jews are not going to pack our bags. That percentage is a physical reality in a democracy. They are the usual extremists, linked to the extreme right wing," he said.

**HOLOCAUST DENIER TELLS DUTCH COURT
HIS MATERIAL WAS NOT DISCRIMINATORY**
By Ruben Vis

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- A Belgian man who publishes pamphlets denying the Holocaust took place told a court here last week he does not believe printing and disseminating such literature constitutes racial discrimination.

Siegfried Verbeke, who was brought to court by four Dutch human rights groups demanding he stop these activities, told the court Oct. 29 that it is not illegal to publish this kind of material.

He also rejected the right of a Dutch judge to rule on something published in Belgium, although he said people in the Netherlands are among those who receive his material.

The case is believed to be the first such suit

to cross national borders. It is enabled by a European Community regulation permitting a resident of one E.C. member state to sue a resident of another.

Verbeke spoke in his own defense, saying he could not find a lawyer willing to defend him.

He admitted he had disseminated some 100,000 packs of his propaganda within the last three years, much of it in Holland. The material was sent to both Jews and non-Jews.

Verbeke challenged the parties who brought him to court to show proof that 6 million Jews really died in the Holocaust and that it actually happened to the extent reported by historians and survivors.

The suit was brought by two Dutch Jewish groups, B'nai B'rith and the Center for Information and Documentation on Israel, and by two Dutch human rights organizations, the Anne Frank Foundation and the National Bureau on Combating Racism.

Another party in the case summoned to court is L. van den Bossche, who is identified in the pamphlets as the responsible publisher. His lawyer said van den Bossche is totally innocent of the charges and that his client did not even know his name had appeared in the pamphlets.

Verbeke called this untrue. The court was to investigate the matter.

A verdict is expected sometime this month.

**CHRISTIANS STAGE MASSIVE REPENTANCE
FOR EDICT EXPELLING JEWS FROM SPAIN**
By Judith Lew

MADRID (JTA) -- Some 1,000 Christians from 50 countries recently staged a massive act of repentance in Toledo for the edict that expelled Jews from Spain 500 years ago.

They made public petitions signed by thousands of Christians worldwide calling for the restoration to Jewish administration of an ancient Toledo synagogue, Santa Maria la Blanca.

The imposing 14th-century synagogue, which later became a church, is now a museum under the Spanish Ministry of Culture.

In an address to the gathering, former Israeli president Yitzhak Navon said he was moved by the "sympathy and affection" which brought together Christian friends of Israel at the initiative of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem.

"We wanted the Jews of the world to know that although Spain and most of its people brushed off the 500th anniversary of the expulsion in order to concentrate on the Expo, the quinqucentenary of the discovery of America, the Olympics and Madrid Cultural Capital, there are others who do care," said Samuel del Coso Roman, the embassy's representative in Spain.

Del Coso said King Juan Carlos of Spain fell short last March in seeking reconciliation with the Jewish community on the 500th anniversary of its expulsion from the country.

The king participated in a ceremony at a Madrid synagogue honoring the Jews, but failed to tear up the royal edict that expelled them in 1492, said del Coso. By failing to cancel the decree, the king let slip a chance "to break the curse" that had so long hung over Spain.

Del Coso said he went to Israel for the first time in 1988 feeling "a little guilty" about his country's treatment of the Jews. There he met people from the Christian Embassy who asked him to be their representative in Spain.