

**PEACE TALKS RECESS ON SOUR NOTE  
WITH NO DATE SET FOR NEXT ROUND**

By Cynthia Mann

States News Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- The seventh round of Middle East peace talks here ended Thursday on a sour note and without a clear commitment by all parties to return to Washington for a new round next month.

The Israeli delegation reported frustration that hopes for real progress had not been met.

In the Israelis' final briefing, spokesman Yossi Gal reported there had been an "all or nothing attitude that makes compromise impossible" and that "direct dialogue" had been "subordinated to public posturing."

At the same time, the Palestinians protested to the State Department that the Israeli proposal for Palestinian self-government is not a serious one.

A Palestinian press aide said the proposal "legitimizes the occupation in another form" and creates a system of apartheid.

The Israelis' sense of frustration may have been heightened by the fact that Thursday was the 15th anniversary of the historic visit to Jerusalem by the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin marked the occasion in Jerusalem by telephoning Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and telling him that the Sadat visit had opened a new chapter in the history of Israel and Egypt.

He also thanked Mubarak and the Egyptian people for the courage and determination to continue the peace, thereby demonstrating to the other Arab nations how peace can benefit all nations.

Mubarak pledged to Rabin he would do all he could to support the peace process, according to reports from Jerusalem.

**'Futile Declarations'**

The exception to the bleak picture in Washington was the progress made between Israel and the Jordanians. The parties reached an agreement on an agenda and started what they called serious, substantive discussions on water, energy and the environment.

Tension in the Israeli-Lebanese talks was eased by a de-escalation of the violence that had engulfed the border between the two countries, which had threatened to derail the talks.

The talks broke up Thursday with the Lebanese agreeing to review an Israeli proposal for meetings between the Israeli and Lebanese military personnel to discuss security along their border.

Meanwhile, the talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians bogged down over the two sides' inability to agree on arrangements for limited Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli spokesman Gal blamed Palestinian intransigence and a willingness to sacrifice "futile discussion" for "futile declarations."

The Palestinians, in turn, blamed the Israelis for offering proposals that were paltry.

"We cannot see anything in it that would

change the status quo," the Palestinian aide said Thursday. "They want a functional peace," he said. "We want a just peace."

Earlier in the week, he said the Palestinians in the territories would grow impatient without more results.

Gal said the Palestinians were unwilling to compromise and that they dismissed proposals as "insignificant" if they fell short of their expectations.

He stressed that under the framework for the talks established in Madrid more than a year ago, the current talks represent the first phase and are not intended to resolve the "final status" of Palestinian autonomy.

"This all or nothing (approach) will lead to nothing for all," he said.

The Israelis were also disappointed with the talks with the Syrians, which they had hoped would result in an agreement of principles that would help guide the negotiation of a peace accord.

But the two parties were stuck in what Israeli negotiator Itamar Rabinovich called "the basic stalemate."

The Syrians, he said, insist on full withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a "precondition to any further progress," and "we cannot elaborate on the notion of withdrawal before we have a clear idea of what the Syrian concept of peace is."

**NEWS ANALYSIS:****KING HUSSEIN'S HEALTH PROBLEMS****RAISE DOUBT ABOUT JORDAN'S FUTURE**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The hot gossip in the Middle East for the past several months has been the supposed affair between King Hussein and Rina Najam, a Jordanian citizen of Palestinian origin.

Najam, a correspondent for the Cable News Network in Amman during the Persian Gulf War, reported on the massive popular support Hussein enjoyed for his pro-Iraq policy.

The rumors last spring were that relations between the king and the reporter had turned intimate: The king would divorce Queen Noor, the former Lisa Halabi, his wife for the past 14 years, and wed Najam. However, for reasons unknown, the marriage did not take place.

Hussein himself may have provided the answer earlier this month when he told his nation for the first time that his health was deteriorating and he needed medical care.

On state television, he delivered an unusually emotional and personal 50-minute speech, telling his people he would be absent from time to time to get medical treatment.

Immediately, speculation arose that Hussein, whose kidney and cancerous ureter had been removed, had concluded that he was suffering from a terminal disease and consequently had thought better of beginning a new marriage.

The Cairo newspaper Akhbar Al Yawm reported recently that Hussein's resignation was imminent. Political analysts went to work summing up the Hussein era in the Middle East.

However, judging from his speech, the

reports of his vacating the throne were premature.

Hussein was not bidding farewell in his nationwide address. He was just signaling that a farewell might be in the offing at some point in the future. He was marking the beginning of a gradual transfer of power to his brother, Crown Prince Hassan, who is heir to the throne.

#### Challenge From Fundamentalists

Just how long that transition period will take is unclear, since it depends on the state of Hussein's health. If his American doctors find that he can continue business as usual, he will do so. If not, he may yield the throne sooner.

But perhaps reflecting concern about the future of the country in the aftermath of his reign, Hussein focused much of his speech on the need to improve the process of democratization now under way in the kingdom.

The king spoke of the opportunity to introduce democracy in all spheres of life. He stressed that all Arab regimes should depart from their authoritarian ways.

Hussein faces tough internal challenges, mostly from a Moslem fundamentalist opposition that is growing stronger every day.

Last week, an Amman court sentenced two Moslem fundamentalists charged with treason to 20 years in prison, though the prosecution had demanded the death sentence.

The relatively light sentence was seen as a signal by the Jordanian government that it cannot confront the fundamentalists with full force.

The continued stability of the Hashemite kingdom depends on three major factors: the continued support of the military, the continued existence of a strong civil nucleus to take care of the government, even if the king is too ill to do so, and peaceful relations within the royal family.

So far, all three factors have played in the king's favor. Hussein's brother, the 45-year-old crown prince, who is 12 years the king's junior, is known as the strongman in the kingdom, after Hussein. There is little doubt that once Hussein can no longer fulfill his duty as king, Hassan will take over.

Hassan, now responsible for internal affairs, has acquired a reputation as a talented and self-confident politician. He is also known for his animosity toward Israel. Prior to the resumption of the peace talks, he often expressed the view that Israel is an expansionist and aggressive state.

Although the king and his brother have not always seen eye to eye on state matters, they maintain good relations, and the two function well together as a royal team.

#### May Accelerate Peace Talks

However, if it were only up to him, Hussein would probably hand down the throne to his beloved son, Abdullah. The problem is that the 30-year-old is the son of Hussein's second wife, Queen Muna, originally the British Tony Gardner. Since he is only half Arab, his chances to succeed his father are considered slim.

Once Hassan presumably becomes king, the new crown prince will be Hussein's younger son, Ali, 17, from his previous wife, Alia, a Moslem of Palestinian origin who died in 1977.

But Hussein is not leaving yet. As long as his health allows him, he will continue to run the affairs of the Hashemite kingdom.

Israeli observers hope that the knowledge that his time is limited will convince Hussein to

speed up the peace negotiations with Israel, so that he can see the results before it is too late to enjoy them.

This may very well explain the recent Jordanian flexibility in the peace talks, which was expressed in an agreement over the framework for the bilateral negotiations in Washington.

#### **SOLDIER WOUNDED IN LEBANON AS NEW ATTACKS ARE AVERTED** By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Contrary to initial reports, an Israeli soldier was injured in an attack on an army post in southern Lebanon on Wednesday that touched off an eight-hour artillery exchange.

Daniel Mann was hit in the chest by shrapnel while pursuing gunmen who directed fire from light weapons and rifle-propelled grenades at an Israeli position in the eastern sector of the Israeli-controlled security zone.

Initial reports said there had been no casualties among Israeli troops or the allied South Lebanon Army in the attack near Nabatiya.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah denied it carried out the attack on the Israeli position. Reports from Lebanon said variously that the gunmen were members of a group called the Syrian National Party Upper Council of Lebanon, headed by Ana'am Raid, or of the National Resistance group of the Lebanese Communist Party.

Two roadside bombs were discovered in the area of the clash and dismantled without causing damage.

The two Hezbollah terrorists killed in the exchange brought to three the number killed in clashes with Israeli and South Lebanon Army troops within a period of 36 hours.

U.N. peacekeepers, meanwhile, apparently averted another attack on Israel.

Members of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon on Wednesday discovered and dismantled two Katyusha launchers in the Tyre region, north of the security zone.

Both had been aimed at Israel. A timing device attached to the rocket launchers was set to go off an hour later.

#### **GRENADE ATTACK SUSPECT RELEASED** By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Police have released a member of the extremist Kach movement who had been detained in connection with a grenade attack Monday in the Old City of Jerusalem that killed an Arab shopkeeper and wounded 12 others.

Nathan Levy, 21, of Petach Tikvah was released after he proved that at the time of the attack he was in the Jerusalem police lockup visiting Kach members held there in detention.

Authorities continue to lean toward the view that the attack in the Moslem Quarter was carried out by Jewish extremists, according to Israel Police Inspector General Ya'acov Terner.

No other arrests have been reported in the case, which triggered a round of rock-throwing by Arabs at Israeli vehicles in the Old City.

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Because of the U.S. holiday of Thanksgiving, the JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published next Friday, Nov. 27.

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## IDF CHIEF OF STAFF UNDER FIRE OVER CONDUCT IN ACCIDENT CASE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force chief of staff has come under sharp fire from Knesset members who say the army kept back information relating to a fatal training accident in the Negev earlier this month.

Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak is expected to be summoned before military police to give his account of the Nov. 5 accidental firing of a missile during an exercise in the Negev, which killed five members of an elite unit and wounded five more.

Barak appeared Tuesday before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, where members charged the army had failed to submit relevant documents to a commission of inquiry into the accident.

The commission was appointed by Barak and was headed by reserve Maj. Gen. Menahem Eitan. Its other members were two IDF colonels and a prominent civilian lawyer.

Yossi Sarid of the dovish Meretz bloc complained that Israel's military censor had barred reporting in Israel of the fact that Barak himself was present at the fatal accident, a fact that surfaced only in the Eitan commission's report.

The panel, however, cleared the chief of staff of any involvement in the accident.

Barak defended the action of the censor. He said top officers frequently observe major war games and their presence generally goes unreported for reasons of "military security."

He said, too, he would cooperate with the investigation by military police who, he said, have a right to question anyone they wish.

The chief military censor came under questioning by another parliamentary panel.

Appearing before the Knesset Law Committee, the censor defended the deletion of the names of the chief of staff and a second officer from media reports on the accident.

He again refused to name the second officer present, generally believed to have been the deputy chief of staff.

### Another Accident At Same Base

As military police investigators began their work, another training accident occurred at the Tze'elim base, this time without casualties.

An artillery shell was accidentally discharged in an incident involving a violation of standing regulations. The shell hit a sandbag redoubt on the firing range some distance away, where soldiers were taking cover.

The officer in charge was immediately removed from his command, according to reports.

At the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee hearing, Sarid challenged army failure to remove the three officers held responsible for the fatal accident at Tze'elim by the Eitan commission. He said that could be done without waiting for the outcome of an investigation by the military police.

"The military police automatically opens an investigation after every serious mishap, especially those involving loss of life," said the Meretz Knesset member.

"Why wait for an inquiry board to propose a military investigation on which to base legal charges against officers already named by the board?"

The Eitan board singled out three officers

for responsibility in the fatal accident. They included Maj. Gen. Amiram Levin, in overall charge of the drill, and a major and captain directly responsible for implementation of the exercise.

But the panel recommended to the army prosecutor that he strike a balance in considering legal action, between the fatal outcome of the training exercise and the quality of the three "talented and devoted officers, among the best in the Israel Defense Force."

### DEAL REACHED IN BURIAL DISPUTE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- Government archaeologists, under pressure from haredi, or fervently Orthodox, Jews, have agreed to rebury 2,000-year-old bones together with their ancient coffins.

But they said their agreement to do so under a compromise plan "will not be considered a precedent" for the disposition of sarcophagi and ossuaries found at future archaeological digs.

Accord on reburial of remains found at a dig in the French Hill neighborhood of Jerusalem last week was reached in talks between Interior Minister Arye Deri, leader of the haredi Shas party; Jerusalem Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Kallit; the Israel Antiquities Department; and the Jerusalem municipality.

It followed rioting among haredi communities in Jerusalem and Bnei Brak over excavation of ancient burial caves in French Hill.

Archaeologists failed to win acceptance for their proposal to reinter the bones alone and retain the ancient coffins for study.

### MORE JEWS ARRIVE FROM ABKHAZIA

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- A group of 54 Jewish refugees from the restive breakaway province of Abkhazia, in the formerly Soviet republic of Georgia, arrived in Israel on Wednesday on a special flight arranged by the Jewish Agency.

Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz said that out of 1,200 Jews in the Abkhazian capital of Sukhumi before the fighting, only 350 now remain there.

Those who did not make it to Israel have taken refuge in nearby republics and have contacted Jewish Agency representatives requesting their help to leave for Israel.

### YES, THERE'S GAS IN GALILEE

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19 (JTA) -- The Abjac Mazal oil prospecting company announced that it has struck methane gas in "relatively large quantities" at a drilling site in northern Galilee.

Methane is viewed as a far cleaner energy source than the butane gas commonly used for cooking in Israel. Butane is a byproduct of petroleum.

Further testing is needed to establish the size of the deposit and its commercial viability at the site near Kibbutz Gonen in the Hula Valley.

Gonen 6 is one of eight wells drilled in the Hula Valley in the 1980s and then abandoned. The Hula had been drained to open up farming land but may be allowed to revert because of agricultural problems that have developed there.

Methane is a swamp gas; its only previous find took place in the Hula in the 1980s, but that reservoir suddenly dried up.

## LEADER WHO BATTLED BUSH ON LOANS PRAISES U.S. RECORD ON SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK (JTA) -- An American Jewish leader who directly challenged the Bush administration on delays in loan guarantees for Israel has high praise for its record in rescuing Jews from the former Soviet Union.

Shoshana Cardin, who fought the reluctance of the outgoing administration to grant loan guarantees to Israel for resettling immigrants from the former Soviet Union, last week cited the "outstanding role" played by the Bush White House on behalf of their freedom to emigrate.

Cardin, who is the outgoing chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, spoke at a reception honoring her upon the completion of her chairmanship of the National Conference of Soviet Jewry.

Among those at the reception, held during the group's annual leadership assembly, was acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger.

Eagleburger praised both Cardin's leadership and the administration's record on Soviet Jewry. He said the United States had made a "fundamental" decision to make Soviet treatment of Jews and other minorities "a determining factor in American policy toward the former USSR."

"The well-being of world Jewry has influenced more than just our policies toward the former Soviet Union," he said. "It has been a defining element of overall U.S. foreign policy throughout the postwar period."

Also speaking at the three-day leadership assembly were three diplomats from the Soviet successor states: Andrei Kolosovsky, deputy chief of mission at the Russian Embassy; Ernst Jaakson, Estonian ambassador to Washington and the United Nations; and Victor Batiouk, Ukrainian ambassador to the United Nations.

## OTHERS TRYING TO LEARN THE 'SECRET' OF JDC'S SUCCESS IN SARAJEVO RESCUE

By Michele Chabin

ZAGREB, Croatia, Nov. 16 (JTA) -- The success of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's daring rescue of 350 Sarajevo residents last Saturday has left people here asking, "How did they do it?"

Having watched highlights of the operation on the evening news, the locals here are eager to learn "the secret." Far from resentful that a Jewish organization succeeded where other relief organizations have failed, former residents of Sarajevo would like to emulate the JDC's actions.

Despite the ethnic fighting that shakes Sarajevo on a daily basis, the JDC, in cooperation with the Sarajevo Jewish community, has successfully carried out eight separate evacuations. An airlift of the elderly is also under consideration.

This high rate of success can be attributed to several factors, said Jakov Bienenfeld, a local businessman who helped coordinate the evacuation efforts.

"The most important factor is the good relations the Jews of Sarajevo share with all other ethnic groups," he said. "We have lived together for generations. Neither Moslems, nor Serbs, nor Croatians would intentionally harm a Jew."

Another advantage is the JDC's close ties with the Jewish community in Sarajevo. Unlike the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which often rely on

information from refugees who have escaped Sarajevo, the JDC is in daily phone or radio contact with those still in the city.

"We know the situation minute-by-minute because we are in touch with the people inside," Bienenfeld said.

He also pointed out that "all of the JDC's efforts here are non-sectarian and funded by both Jews and non-Jews."

In Sarajevo, he added, "you can't help one without helping the other."

## ISRAEL DENIES GREEK MEDIA REPORT IT IS AIDING YUGOSLAV DRUG TRADE

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Nov. 16 (JTA) -- Israel has angrily denied a Greek media report which says it is selling chemicals to the heroin industry in a province of former Yugoslavia.

The Israeli Embassy in the Greek capital termed "outrageous" a television report that Israel is supplying anhydride acid to help convert poppy juice to heroin at a secret manufacturing site in Skopje, Macedonia.

Israeli Ambassador David Sasson will reiterate Israel's anger over the report in a meeting with Greek Foreign Minister Mihalis Papakonstantinou, an embassy spokesman said.

The report came as Greece nervously watched developments in neighboring Yugoslavia. It is concerned at the prospect of being dragged into hostilities if tensions between Macedonia and Kosovo province erupt into a shooting war that could also involve Albania.

Greece is particularly angered by the desire of Macedonia to declare independence under that name, which Greece claims for its own northern province.

A report on the Greek television channel MEGA said intelligence authorities in an unnamed country singled out Israel as the chemical supplier for a plant processing hashish and heroin at a top secret military base named Marshall Tito, which is run by carefully screened troops.

The report said its drugs are sold to the Italian Mafia and the money used to buy weapons from Russia, Bulgaria and Turkey. It said Israel might be shipping the chemical through Syria to the Greek port of Volos and then overland to Skopje.

An Israeli Embassy statement said the television report alleging Israel was "cooperating with its enemy Syria to export to a third country a chemical it doesn't produce would be a good joke if the matter were not so sad."

## DUTCH ROYALTY VISITS CURACAO SHUL

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- The Dutch royal family made a stop at Curacao's old synagogue last week during an official visit to the Netherlands Antilles island.

Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus were accompanied by their three sons during their visit to the Mikveh Israel Emanuel Synagogue in Willemstad, the Caribbean island's capital.

A thanksgiving service was held at the synagogue for the royal family's visit to "express the profound feelings of gratitude of the Jewish community on the island of Curacao toward the House of Orange," as the royal family is known.

The synagogue claims it is the oldest Jewish prayer house in the Western Hemisphere, founded in 1656.