

**INVITATIONS TO PEACE TALKS ISSUED,  
BUT PALESTINIANS MAY NOT SHOW UP**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 10 (JTA) -- The United States and Russia have formally invited Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese negotiators to return to Washington on April 20 for a ninth round of bilateral peace talks.

But the Palestinians say they will not show up unless the fate of some 400 Palestinians deported by Israel last December is resolved to their satisfaction.

U.S. officials are hoping nonetheless that the Palestinians will agree to join the talks.

An invitation asking the Israelis to attend the bilateral talks was handed to Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin on Wednesday by the U.S. ambassador, William Harrop, and his Russian counterpart, Alexander Bovin.

A similar invitation to the Palestinians was presented at the delegation's headquarters in eastern Jerusalem by Molly Williamson, the U.S. consul general here.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said the delegation "refused to receive the invitation," while Haidar Abdel-Shafi, the delegation's chairman, said he and his colleagues would carefully study the invitation.

The invitation was, in fact, later returned by messenger to the American Consulate.

Political observers said the Americans decided to extend the invitations before the Palestinians had made up their mind about attending the talks in order to prod them to do so. They felt the Palestine Liberation Organization leadership in Tunis, which guides the Palestinian negotiators, was leaning toward resuming the talks with Israel.

**'Not Heard The Last Word'**

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said: "I strongly feel we have not heard the last word from the Palestinians."

"My strong conviction continues to be that the Palestinians will want to return to the negotiations because they see" an opportunity to "make real progress," he added.

Christopher announced he was inviting members of the negotiating teams to come to Washington in late March or early April to hold "substantial discussions" with American officials before the ninth round begins.

He also said the five multilateral working groups on regional issues ranging from economic development to arms control would reconvene at various times and locations this spring.

The first of the new round of multilateral sessions will be the group on water resources, which will convene April 27 in Geneva.

Christopher said his "encouraging" discussion with Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus last month was one of the "principal elements" forming his decision to go ahead with issuing invitations for the peace talks.

He also reiterated an American pledge to be an "active party" in the peace talks.

Here in Jerusalem, Israeli officials were hoping that the invitations would strike the deportation issue off the agenda of next Monday's

meeting at the White House between President Clinton and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, allowing the two leaders to focus their talks on the peace process.

Rabin was scheduled to leave Thursday night for a 10-day visit to the United States, which will also include meetings with Defense Secretary Les Aspin and various members of Congress.

Rabin is said to be seeking maximum cooperation with the president over U.S. involvement in the peace process. He reportedly wants to reach a basic understanding with the United States regarding the "red lines," or final negotiating positions, in the talks.

**Eye To Eye On Fundamentalism?**

The prime minister is also expected to discuss with Clinton the growing menace of Iran and Moslem fundamentalism. The World Trade Center explosion is believed here to have created a better atmosphere for a U.S.-Israeli understanding on ways to cope with Moslem fundamentalist dangers.

Other topics on the agenda include: preserving Israel's security advantage; updating the agreement for strategic cooperation, including the discussions about using Haifa as a base for the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet; the continued development of the Arrow anti-missile missile; preserving the scope of American military and civilian aid to Israel; and fighting the Arab League economic boycott against Israel.

Israel is also concerned that the United States will eventually renew a direct dialogue with the PLO, following the trend in Europe to upgrade the level of contacts with the PLO.

Just this week, Britain's Foreign Office minister, Douglas Hogg, met with PLO officials in the highest-level such meeting since the Persian Gulf War. Israel protested, but officials here believe Britain would not have held the talks without a green light from Washington.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Deborah Kalb of States News Service in Washington.)

**SPATE OF ARAB ATTACKS AGAINST JEWS  
COULD WELL INCREASE, GENERAL WARNS**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 10 (JTA) -- Israelis reeling from a string of terrorist attacks against civilians in recent days heard an unsettling prediction this week from one of their top generals.

Palestinian attacks against Jews will likely increase as the Middle East peace process resumes, Maj. Gen. Danny Yatom, the outgoing commander of the Israeli army's central front, warned Wednesday.

Attacks will be encouraged both from opponents of the peace talks as well as supporters who want to use terror "to push Israel into the corner," Yatom said.

To make his point, Yatom observed that recent murders in the Gaza Strip have been attributed to the Fatah Hawks, an armed group affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Organization's mainstream faction led by Yasser Arafat, who supposedly supports the peace talks.

The string of fatal clashes between Palestin-

ians and Israelis continued Wednesday, as undercover troops shot dead an Arab youth outside Jerusalem and a group of Arab youths stabbed and critically wounded an Israeli soldier in the Galilee town of Nazareth.

The attack in Nazareth, the largest Arab town in Israel proper, was rare, since Israelis and tourists have long been considered safe in the city, even as the intifada raged in the administered territories.

Earlier in the week, two Palestinians brutally murdered their Jewish employer in the Gaza Strip, and several hours later an Arab was shot dead by Israeli civilians who were returning to the strip from the funeral of their fellow settler.

Last week, an Israeli driver was stoned and shot dead when he mistakenly entered a Gaza Strip refugee camp, and in a separate incident, a laborer from Gaza went on a stabbing spree in downtown Tel Aviv, killing two Jews.

At a news conference to mark the end of his tenure in his current job, Yatom said that despite the recent rise in the use of firearms by Palestinians -- there were some 151 shooting incidents in 1992, compared to 132 in 1991 -- there have been improvements in the overall security situation.

He said that the local Palestinian population cooperates less with gunmen wanted by the Israelis than in the past.

In the fatal shooting of an Arab youth by undercover troops shortly before Yatom made his comments, Palestinian witnesses claimed the soldiers' lives were not endangered.

The army maintained that the soldiers came under a stone-throwing attack at a road junction near the northern entrance to Jerusalem and chased after the Palestinians.

But Dr. Ahmad Tibi, a well-known Israeli Arab who witnessed the incident, said the soldiers were not stoned during the chase, but continued firing at the fleeing youths.

Meanwhile, the tense situation in Gaza showed no signs of letting up, with an Israeli bus driver being lightly wounded there Wednesday, when his bus was fired upon by a passing car.

#### ARRESTED ARAB AMERICAN IDENTIFIED By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 10 (JTA) -- The identity of a fourth Palestinian arrested on suspicion of hostile anti-Israel activity has been given as Anwar Hamdan Dahdoul, 33, of Lafayette Hills, Pa.

Dahdoul was arrested Feb. 28 in the West Bank village of Ramallah, and was, like the other Palestinians detained, accused of engaging in hostile anti-Israel activities on behalf of Hamas.

Like Mohammed Salah, 39, and Mohammed Jarrad, 38, Dahdoul entered Israel in mid-January. All three are said to have been sent here by Hamas to help rebuild the organization from setbacks experienced since the December deportations to Lebanon of some 400 of its members.

Another Arab American was also arrested a month ago on suspicion of being a Hamas agent, but was released shortly afterward.

Dahdoul's attorney, Jawad Boulos, said his client commuted between his hometown of El-Bireh and the United States frequently since first leaving 10 years ago.

Dahdoul, an engineer, is married with four children and had come to visit his wife, Iman, and family, who live most of the year in El-Bireh.

#### THIRD SUSPECT ARRESTED IN TRADE CENTER BOMBING

NEW YORK, March 10 (JTA) -- The FBI has arrested and charged a third suspect in connection with the Feb. 26 bombing of New York's World Trade Center.

Nidal Ayyad, 25, a chemical engineer living in Maplewood, N.J., was arrested at his home early Wednesday morning without incident and later arraigned before a federal magistrate in Newark, N.J.

He was charged with "aiding and abetting" the bombing at the Manhattan landmark skyscraper.

Ayyad was identified as a Kuwaiti-born nationalized American who works as a chemical engineer at Allied-Signal Corp. in Morristown, N.J.

He was described by government officials as an associate of Mohammed Salameh, the 25-year-old Jordanian national who was arrested March 4 as a prime suspect in the bombing.

Among other things, the two have a joint bank account.

Also being held is Ibrahim Elgabrowni, 42, who is charged with obstructing justice. Elgabrowni assaulted federal officials during a search of his apartment, which Salameh had listed as his own address.

According to FBI officials, Ayyad was the driver of a red General Motors sedan that accompanied Salameh when he arrived at the Ryder truck rental agency to pick up the yellow Ford Econoline van that allegedly was used in the trade center bombing.

It was reported that both Salameh and Ayyad had access to a New Jersey locker containing chemicals similar to those that caused the massive blast, which killed at least five people and injured more than 1,000 others.

#### Warnings About Stereotyping

It was not immediately clear whether Ayyad is a follower of Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, a radical Egyptian cleric who preaches violence in the name of Islam.

Nor was there any early word on whether Ayyad has any connection to El Sayyid Nosair, the Moslem fundamentalist serving a jail sentence for charges connected with the November 1990 assassination of Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Elgabrowni is a great uncle of Nosair's, and Salameh was said to have visited him more than once in jail. All three men worshipped in Abdel Rahman's mosques in Brooklyn and Jersey City, N.J.

Abdel Rahman was tried but acquitted in Egypt for alleged involvement in the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat. U.S. officials have deportation hearings pending against him.

Meanwhile, a number of American Jewish organizations have issued statements in recent days urging the public not to scapegoat Arab Americans or Moslems in the wake of the recent arrests.

A warning to that effect was first issued late last week by the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, which said, "Strong feelings engendered by the bombing of the World Trade Center must not be used to generate intimidation of Arab-Americans or American Muslims."

Similar statements were issued this week by the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

## U.S. PLEDGES TO PRESS DAMASCUS TO ALLOW JEWS TO LEAVE COUNTRY

By Deborah Kalb  
States News Service

WASHINGTON, March 10 (JTA) -- The United States will push the Syrian government to ensure that Syrian Jews are being granted visas to leave the country, a high-level State Department official told members of Congress this week.

In testimony Tuesday before the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, Edward Djerejian, the assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, said the United States was "now following up to determine if the pace of giving exit visas can be increased."

During his recent trip to the Middle East, Secretary of State Warren Christopher raised the issue of Syrian Jewry's freedom to travel outside the country with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Since Oct. 20, Syria has almost entirely stopped allowing Jews to leave the country, reversing a 6-month-old policy of permitting free travel abroad for Jews.

Djerejian, responding to a question from Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), said that Christopher had received "a very clear reconfirmation of Assad's decision to allow Syrian Jews total freedom of travel."

Approximately 2,850 Syrian Jews received passports and exit visas between April 1992, when Assad lifted the travel restrictions, and October, Djerejian said.

But since mid-October, he said, "only a few Syrian Jews a week have received exit permits," and "approximately 1,000 have applications still pending."

Djerejian said the State Department is concerned that so few Jews are being granted exit visas, adding that "we will follow up both here and in Damascus to help assure that what President Assad told the secretary of state is carried out."

### Pressed On Support For Terrorism

In New York, Alice Harary, president of the Council for the Rescue of Syrian Jews, said in a statement Wednesday that she welcomed the "seriousness with which Secretary Djerejian appeared to be following up assurances given to the Christopher mission concerning future travel for Syrian Jews."

Harary noted that Djerejian "has consistently demonstrated concern for the plight of Syrian Jews, from the time when he was U.S. ambassador in Damascus."

But she added that the council is "also very concerned about the failure of the Assad government to resume the issuance of exit permits at the pre-October rate."

Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) pressed Djerejian on the issue of Syria's remaining on the list of countries supporting terrorism. He asked whether Assad understands "that Syria will remain on that list as long as it continues to sponsor terrorism."

Djerejian said that the United States has been presenting Syria with "the facts" about its support for terrorism. But he acknowledged, "We have not been able to narrow the differences between us on that."

Lantos also asked about reputed Syrian plans to build a Scud missile production plant. Djerejian said he would answer the question in private session.

## SOVIET SPY FREED FROM ISRAEL JAIL UNDER ACCORD TO LET REFUSEENIKS GO

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 10 (JTA) -- Shabtai Kalmanovitch, sentenced to nine years in prison in 1987 for spying for the Soviet Union, was released Wednesday from the Ashmoret prison at Beit Lid, a few hours after President Chaim Herzog commuted his sentence under an agreement reached with authorities in Moscow.

The presidential order for his release, after serving just over five years of his prison term, was signed Wednesday morning on the recommendation of the Justice Ministry, the prime minister, foreign minister and security authorities.

Under the terms of the release, the Russian authorities have undertaken to facilitate the immigration to Israel of Jewish refuseeniks whose permission to leave both the former Soviet Union and its successor republics was withheld for security reasons.

Just as in the days of strict and often arbitrary Soviet rule, these were persons who were said to have been in possession of state secrets because of previous work.

Under the terms of the agreement, Moscow has also reportedly agreed to provide information about missing Israelis.

Kalmanovitch, then a recent arrival from Moscow, was reportedly a plant in Israel, trained at a KGB school and sent to gather economic intelligence.

Shortly after his arrival, he established a successful import and export business, mainly with various countries in Africa. This is reported to have been the main field of his intelligence-gathering on behalf of Moscow.

He began pressing for his release, under a presidential pardon or commutation of his sentence, two or three years ago, when his health deteriorated from advanced diabetes, which threatened the amputation of a leg. He has spent the last two years in the prison hospital.

Kalmanovitch's mother said Wednesday that she did not know what her son intended doing following his release. But she said he planned to stay in Israel and return to economic activities.

He was divorced from his wife a few years ago. The couple have a 17-year-old daughter.

Kalmanovitch was described by the prison authorities as an "exemplary inmate."

## MILITARY SOURCES DISMISS REPORT ISRAEL PLOTTED TO MURDER SADDAM

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, March 10 (JTA) -- Military sources here dismissed as "pure speculation" a report in The Sunday Times of London that claimed five Israeli soldiers killed in an army base accident last November had been training to assassinate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The author of the article, Marie Colvin, wrote that earlier reports saying the men were training for the assassination of a Hezbollah leader in Lebanon were "elaborate disinformation."

Instead, Colvin wrote, the soldiers who died in the accident had actually been rehearsing the assassination of Hussein, using what one source told her was a highly sophisticated "body heat-seeking missile."

As a result of the accident, the assassination plot was canceled, since it was planned for a specific time and place, she reported.

## BRITISH OFFICIAL DEFENDS RESUMING TALKS WITH PLO

By Bernard Josephs  
London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, March 10 (JTA) -- British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg defended his country's decision to lift a ban on high-level contacts with the Palestine Liberation Office this week, saying he acted to further the peace process when he met with PLO officials earlier this week.

In an interview, Hogg said: "We regard ourselves as being friends of Israel and indeed friends of the Palestinians. We think the present impasse is extremely damaging."

But Israeli diplomats continued to condemn the meeting Hogg had Tuesday with two PLO officials and Faisal Husseini, the unofficial chief of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

The meeting marked a reversal of policy for London, which suspended high-level contacts with the PLO during the Persian Gulf War, when the PLO leadership proclaimed its allegiance to Saddam Hussein.

The two PLO officials at the meeting were Hael Fahoum, the head of the PLO's European section, and Afif Safieh, the PLO's London representative.

Israel's ambassador to Britain, Yoav Biran, protested the action to London officials and told the Jewish Chronicle that the British decision was a "prize" to the PLO for obstructing peace talks.

The PLO, however, was clearly jubilant at what Safieh described as "an important breakthrough."

Safieh said the meeting was "warm, constructive and very promising."

Meanwhile, Israel was concerned that Britain's move would be followed by similar decisions in other European capitals.

In New York, the Anti-Defamation League also denounced the British move.

"The PLO does not merit any rewards by the international community," said Abraham Foxman, ADL national director.

"It was not that long ago when Yasir Arafat and the PLO publicly supported Iraqi aggression against Kuwait," he added, and "the PLO has still not demonstrated an unequivocal commitment against violence."

## ISRAEL AND GERMANY INK ACCORD TO EXPAND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

By David Kantor

BONN, March 10 (JTA) -- Israel and Germany signed a joint declaration Wednesday for economic and technological cooperation, including an agreement to increase the funds of an existing joint research foundation to \$180 million.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was in Bonn for a two-day visit following meetings in Strasbourg with the European Parliament and in Geneva with United Nations officials.

Peres signed the cooperation agreement with his Germany counterpart Klaus Kinkel.

Peres also met with President Richard von Weizsacker, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and members of the Bundestag's foreign affairs committee.

German and Israeli delegations, headed by the foreign ministers, discussed a number of topics, notably incentives for German investment in Israel and joint research projects on protecting the environment.

In remarks after initial meetings, Kinkel

described German-Israeli relations as being smooth.

Kinkel added that Bonn fully understood the Israeli concern about gains made by German far-right groups in recent local elections in the state of Hesse. He said that everything possible should be done to confront popular support for the extremists.

During Peres' meeting with the Bundestag, the last Communist prime minister of East Germany, Hans Modrow, criticized Israel for not dealing directly with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Modrow suggested the group was moderate and ready to talk.

Peres responded angrily to Modrow's comments, telling him that the statement should never have come from someone associated with a regime that used to train PLO terrorists.

Asked about the upsurge of anti-Semitism here, Peres expressed hope that Germany would cope with the problem. He said it was remarkable that anti-Semitism existed in some regions without even the slightest Jewish presence.

## Willing To Talk With Arafat

In his visit to Strasbourg, Peres spoke with European Parliament members about the peace process.

"We hope that the peace negotiations will resume soon because there is a real chance to see them lead to a result in 1993," he told members Tuesday.

Earlier in the trip, Peres said Israel hoped to sign a peace agreement with Syria before the end of the year.

In Strasbourg, Peres was visiting the European Community's legislative body at the invitation of its president, the German Christian-Democrat Egon Klepsch.

"The problem is not between Israel and the Palestinians but between the Palestinians and the Hamas movement," he said, referring to the Islamic fundamentalist group popular in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

"If one doesn't stop Hamas, no Palestinian force will be able to stop it. They will kill the negotiators and the peace negotiations," he said.

Peres later told a news conference that he would be ready to talk directly to PLO leader Yasir Arafat "if this would help achieve peace," under the condition that the PLO leader renounce terrorism.

After one journalist cited Arafat's declaration in 1988 in which he officially renounced terrorism, Peres responded: "We judge men through their acts and not their declarations."

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Joseph Kopel in Brussels.)

## NEGEV FOSSIL IS RECLASSIFIED

JERUSALEM, March 10 (JTA) -- A fossil found in the Negev and thought to be the first dinosaur remains ever found in the country was reclassified this week as a lizard.

The fossil was first found by a geological team during a construction project and labeled a 70-million-year-old dinosaur. It reportedly stood five stories high.

But this week, a professor from Hebrew University's Department of Evolution and Ecology said the bones that were excavated were from a marine lizard that was 67 million years old.

The professor said the original error was a result of Israelis' inexperience with dinosaurs.