

**MULTILATERAL TALKS ON ARMS CONTROL
END CURRENT ROUND ON POSITIVE NOTE****By Deborah Kalb****States News Service**

WASHINGTON, May 20 (JTA) -- The third round of multilateral talks on arms control in the Middle East ended here this week on a positive note, with Israeli and American officials calling the session very constructive.

The parties discussed ways of implementing a series of confidence-building measures that had been raised in the previous round in Moscow last September, the Israelis said.

Although there appeared to be progress in these arms control talks, the Palestinians' chief negotiator in the bilateral talks, Haidar Abdel-Shafi, said in the Gaza Strip on Thursday that in his opinion all the Arab-Israeli peace talks should be suspended.

Abdel-Shafi accused the United States of supporting unreasonable Israeli positions and said Israel should declare that all lands captured in 1967, including East Jerusalem, would be considered "occupied" and not merely "disputed."

Nevertheless, a number of decisions were taken at the multilateral arms control talks this week to continue discussions and planning between formal rounds.

"One of the ideas we went in with was to enhance communication among the parties," said a State Department official. "One of the results has been just that -- we have enhanced and increased contacts in the intersessional period."

The arms control talks are considered to be among the more important of the several different multilateral working groups, which are often overshadowed by the higher-profile bilateral talks.

There were three general areas of confidence-building measures discussed at the talks this week, according to the Israelis.

First, the participants are planning working visits to European countries to learn about the possibilities of countries cooperating on military matters without revealing top-secret information.

A group is planning to visit an air force base in London in June and to see NATO maneuvers in Europe in September.

Talks To Continue Between Formal Sessions

Second, the negotiators said they would hold workshops between the official negotiating rounds. A meeting to focus on the issue of verification is scheduled to take place in Cairo in July.

Third, the parties hope to work on concrete ideas that could enhance mutual levels of confidence.

Each of these ideas would have a "mentor" country serving as supervisor.

One such idea under consideration is the establishment of a maritime center or search-and-rescue organization. One possibility is to establish such a center near the Red Sea, with Israel and other neighboring countries as participants. Canada would act as the mentor for this plan.

Another idea would establish communications networks and a hot line in case of accidents.

A third idea, with Turkey acting as mentor, would involve an exchange of information between countries on maneuvers and drills.

This week's session, which ran from Tuesday to Thursday, marked the first time Palestinian negotiators and representatives from the United Nations have taken part in the arms control talks.

But Syria and Lebanon stayed away, as they did during the last two rounds in Moscow and Washington.

The two countries have also boycotted the other four sets of multilateral talks, which deal with such regional issues as economic development, refugee issues, water resources and environmental concerns.

Twenty-five delegations were taking part in the arms control talks, and the United States was serving as chair of this week's meetings.

Last week, there was a round of multilateral talks dealing with refugee issues, held in Oslo, and a round of environmental talks is to take place next week in Tokyo.

**U.N. OFFICIAL CRITICIZES IDF BEHAVIOR
IN TERRITORIES AS 'TRIGGER-HAPPY'****By Cynthia Mann**

JERUSALEM, May 20 (JTA) -- A visiting United Nations representative has complained to Israeli government officials about the rising level of violence committed by the Israel Defense Force against Palestinians in the territories.

Ilter Turkmen, commissioner-general of the U.N. Relief and Welfare Agency, apparently has complained to Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin of "trigger-happy" behavior by Israeli soldiers.

He expressed his alarm over the resulting violence, especially child fatalities.

Turkmen also has called for more humanitarian aid and economic investment in the territories by Israel.

Coincidentally, Turkmen's criticism came the same week as a visit by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to the Gaza Strip, where he promised that an infusion of money would come.

At the same time, the army chief of staff, responding to a report by the Israeli human rights organization B'tselem, insisted that soldiers are constantly cautioned to use restraint.

The B'tselem report charged that 34 children and youths under the age of 17 have been killed by the IDF between Dec. 9 and May 16.

That death rate is higher than any other in the same time period since the beginning of the intifada in 1987, according to B'tselem.

In responding to the B'tselem report, IDF Chief of Staff Ehud Barak said he regretted the loss of life but that casualties were unavoidable.

"We feel very sorry about any individual child which has been killed," said Barak, in remarks before members of the Jewish press, most visiting Israel for the Jerusalem Day celebration. "It is inevitably a loss of life which should be avoided.

"We have ordered our soldiers again and again and have taken very careful measures to reduce it to the lowest possible figure but I can't promise you it won't happen again," he said.

"Unfortunately we're acting in an environment where life and the activities of soldiers are threatened" by "Palestinian adults, youngsters and children."

Barak went on to say that since the beginning of the intifada, the IDF has killed "some 120 terrorists" and another 700 people unintentionally.

He made a point of noting that in the same period the Palestinians have killed 800 fellow Palestinians.

FIVE ARRESTED IN MURDER OF ISRAELI LAWYER IN GAZA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 20 (JTA) -- Five Palestinians have been arrested for the brutal murder last month of an Israeli lawyer who was working in the European Community's aid office in the Gaza Strip.

A sixth man implicated in the killing has escaped across the nearby Egyptian border, the army has reported.

One of the men arrested, Rifat Ali Mohammed Aruki, 23, from the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City, was a guard who worked at a nearby office and knew the victim, Ian Feinberg, personally.

The South African-born Feinberg would travel regularly from his Tel Aviv law firm to the offices of the E.C., one of his clients.

Feinberg and Aruki knew each other, and Feinberg even supplied his eventual killer with free legal advice after Aruki was caught inside Israel without a permit.

Aruki was a guard at the offices of the Cooperation for Development organization, a British-run economic aid office which provided loans for small businessmen.

Aruki was presumably able to supply the other gang members with advance news of Feinberg's work schedule in Gaza.

It was the arrest last week of Mohammed Sakara, 22, of the Bureij refugee camp in Gaza, that led the army to crack open the case.

It is believed that it was the information he provided which led troops to Feinberg's killers.

The two men directly responsible for the killing were picked up Wednesday, Aruki and Omar Issa Rajib, 19, of the Shati refugee camp.

Three others were detained for questioning in the case.

In other news related to the territories, Israeli Sgt. Shmuel Tiho, 21, of Beersheba, died Wednesday of stab wounds suffered in the West Bank city of Nablus last week.

Tiho and another soldier were attacked by three Palestinian militants while on guard duty at a rooftop observation post.

The two soldiers were bringing food up to the post when they were attacked on the stairwell.

Tiho was stabbed in the neck but managed to run about 650 feet to the Nablus police station with the knife protruding from his neck.

The other soldier was lightly wounded in the attack.

Doctors at the scene, apparently misjudging the severity of Tiho's wound, did not order him evacuated by helicopter but sent him instead to the hospital by ambulance.

Tiho fell into a coma shortly after admission.

He was buried in the Beersheba military cemetery Thursday.

Tiho's family has asked the army for a full account of the investigation into his murder, in an effort to find out the reason for the delay in providing him with medical aid.

PERES IS TOLD CHINA WILL STOP SELLING MISSILES TO IRAN, SYRIA

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, May 20 (JTA) -- Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has told Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that China will stop selling missiles to Iran and Syria, according to news reports here.

Peres, in Beijing as part of his tour of the Far East, discussed with his counterpart efforts to enhance political, economic and cultural ties between the two countries.

On Thursday, Peres said his talks with Chinese officials were very good and that warming relations would soon become apparent in China's voting record at the United Nations.

He also said formal diplomatic consultations would now take place between the two countries on a regular basis. China established diplomatic ties with Israel in January 1992.

On Friday, Peres was scheduled to meet the head of China's Parliament and give a lecture at Beijing University.

Peres came to China after visits to India and Thailand. In India, he met with President Shankar Dyalal Sharma and Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

As expected, Peres signed agreements in India on economic cooperation, science and technology and culture.

Peres' visit was covered widely by the Indian press.

HAIFA MAYOR DEFEATED IN PRIMARY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 20 (JTA) -- Reserve Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, the retired military leader who raised questions about Israel's handling of the Lebanon War, trounced the incumbent mayor of Haifa in the Labor Party primary for the mayoral post.

The dovish Mitzna, who retired from the army just two months ago, won 63 percent of the vote Tuesday to 37 percent for Mayor Arye Gurel, who has been in office for the past 15 years.

Mitzna has now solidified his position as a strong favorite for the post, since the city, sometimes dubbed "Red Haifa," has always been a Labor Party stronghold.

The Likud has yet to name its candidate for the mayoral race.

After the fierce, no-holds-barred primary election campaign, Gurel said Wednesday he was considering continuing his bid for mayor, but as an independent candidate.

Under a recently passed amendment to the Municipal Elections Law, candidates can run for direct election for the post of mayor.

The council members would still be chosen from party lists, elected by proportional representation.

KOLLEK HOSPITALIZED FOR FATIGUE

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, May 20 -- Jerusalem's 82-year-old Mayor Teddy Kollek is reported to be in satisfactory condition after being hospitalized Wednesday night with chest pain.

Hospital officials say Kollek did not suffer a heart attack, but was fatigued following an intense schedule of festivities in honor of Jerusalem Day.

BRITISH INDUSTRIAL GIANT DISCOVERED TO BE COMPLYING WITH ARAB BOYCOTT

By Bernard Josephs

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, May 20 (JTA) -- One of Britain's industrial giants, Imperial Chemical Industries, has bowed to the Arab boycott of Israel by pledging not to purchase materials from Israel, it was revealed this week.

Imperial Chemical also advised its Jewish staff against traveling to Arab countries.

An internal memorandum from the company's legal affairs department, addressed to executives in its paint manufacturing division, warned that despite the Middle East peace process, the company should assume that Arab boycott officials would be "as vigilant as ever."

It stated that company rules for dealing with the boycott "include recent ICI undertakings to the Boycott Office not to support the Israeli war effort and not to import raw materials from Israel."

The memo, a copy of which was obtained this week by the London Jewish Chronicle, said that any dealings with Israel should first be vetted by the company's legal affairs department "to ensure that they comply with ICI policies and rules of the Arab boycott."

The memo continued: "It is essential that ICI Paints legal affairs and African and Eastern region . . . should be informed at once of any communications regarding boycott matters, or if any situations arise which might put ICI's business at risk."

The document, issued in October, added that, although Jews, "except those allegedly associated with Zionism," were not barred from visiting Arab countries, "we continue to recommend that Jewish members of ICI staff should avoid such visit."

ICI spokesman John Edgar agreed that the memo -- whose recipients were advised to retain it in a "safe but accessible place" -- reflected the company's attitude toward the boycott. "We have not been told of any change in this policy," he said.

"As in any large organization we tend to find that people need reminding about a whole range of events that are going on in the world. This was a reminder and I have to admit, that is the way of the world," Edgar said.

Parliament Members Criticize Company

The company's policy drew criticism from Parliament members and anti-boycott campaigners. Tory Parliament Member David Sumberg said it was "terrible that one of Britain's most prominent companies should succumb to trade discrimination and blackmail."

He added: "I support legislation against the Arab boycott and I will push for it in parliament, although it is a pity that we are not able to get abandonment of the boycott by voluntary means. The government should do something now."

Martin Savitt, chairman of the Britain-Israel Chamber of Commerce Boycott Committee, said the ICI memorandum illustrated international companies' fear in the face of the embargo.

"It is no use the government telling Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and members of the Gulf Cooperation Council that they object to the boycott, without taking firm action. The policy of leaving this matter to the commercial judgment of businesses has put back the clock for free trade," Savitt said.

ISRAEL AND E.C. OFFICIALS MEET TO UPDATE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

By Joseph Kopel

BRUSSELS, May 20 (JTA) -- Israel last week held a third round of "exploratory informal talks" here aimed at updating its 1975 cooperation agreement with the European Community and enhancing relations in several sectors.

The talks were marked by "good will" on the part of both sides and a desire to come to the best possible agreement, a spokesman for Israel's embassy to the European Community told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Like the two previous rounds of talks, in December in Brussels and in April in Jerusalem, senior officials from both sides were present.

Attending were representatives from various departments of the European Executive Commission, as well from Israel's ministries of sciences and technology, industry, foreign affairs, finance, agriculture and from the Bank of Israel.

Israel's delegation was led by the ambassador to the E.C., Mordechai Drori, while the E.C. delegation was headed by Eberhard Rhein, director of the executive commission's division in charge of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern areas.

Discussions are scheduled to continue between experts at various levels, the Israeli spokesman said.

Formal Talks Could Start Next Year

According to well informed sources, the executive commission is expected to receive a mandate next summer from the E.C. Council of Ministers to start formal negotiations with Israel on updating the 1975 accord and signing a new one. These negotiations could start at the beginning of 1994.

It was at an informal meeting in London in September 1992 that E.C. foreign ministers expressed the wish to update the 1975 E.C.-Israel agreement, in order to take into account the new developments in international relations, such as the European Single Market and the Treaty of European Union.

The objectives of the original 1975 accord were the reciprocal abolition of trade barriers and the establishment of cooperation agreements between the E.C. and Israel.

On Jan. 1, 1989, a free trade zone in the industrial sector was fully established. On that date, Israel abolished its last remaining custom duties vis-a-vis the E.C.

One important aim of the present E.C.-Israel talks is to enlarge the sectors of cooperation between the two sides to telecommunications, environment, services, capital and new technologies.

In January, the E.C. decided to go ahead with trade cooperation talks with Israel despite calls to suspend them in protest over the deportation by Israel of 400-odd Palestinian activists to southern Lebanon last December.

"These talks must continue firstly because of contractual obligations relating to the 1975 agreements and secondly because of the priority we attach to the Mideast peace process," a senior E.C. official said at the time.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met in February with his European counterparts in Brussels and discussed the future trade and cooperation accord between the two sides.

Last week's talks represented a continuation of these discussions.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN LUBAVITCH HIGHLIGHTS LEADERSHIP VACUUM

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA) -- As the Lubavitcher rebbe withdrew from public view last week during a setback in his recovery from a major stroke, a power struggle was taking place among his most trusted lieutenants.

Several of his closest aides, all of whom have worked for their beloved leader for decades, were fighting over control of the most important jewels in the Lubavitch crown of organizations.

It is likely to be the first of many battles for control over the engines that run the Chabad machine, as the movement begins to grapple with the realities of an incapacitated leader and a lack of clear succession.

The fight is about control over the Lubavitch empire and, ultimately, about directing the future course of the movement.

Because the 91-year-old rebbe has no heir apparent, the movement's future will likely be decided by those who control power in the various parts of the Lubavitch organization.

The current tension among members of the Lubavitch inner circle is "a barometer of the realization that they're headed into a period of a vacuum at the top, where the key power will be the people who run the bureaucratic organization," said Samuel Heilman, author of "Defenders of the Faith," about fervently Orthodox Jews.

"Whoever is running the bureaucracy will be that much more important in the absence of a charismatic leader," added Heilman, who is a sociologist at the City University of New York.

This most recent power struggle began following the death last month of the man who had run the central Lubavitch organizations for 40 years, Rabbi Chaim Mordechai Isaac Hodakov.

The vacuum left by his death and the struggle that ensued may have portent for the future.

Hodakov, who died at the age of 91, came with the previous rebbe to America from Riga, Latvia. He led every major Lubavitch organization, including the rebbe's secretariat, which is composed of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson's five closest aides.

Infighting Began After Hodakov's Death

The other key groups he ran include Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, which directs Lubavitch's educational activities and its network of thousands of emissaries worldwide; Agudas Hassidei Chabad, which represents policy set by Lubavitch leaders; Machne Israel, the movement's social service and youth-program arm; and Kehot Publication Society.

It did not take long after he died for the infighting to begin over who would control the finances and management of these supra-organizations, which each serve as umbrella groups for dozens more.

Another member of the secretariat -- Rabbi Nissan Mindel -- has shared responsibility with Hodakov for running the organizations.

But for the last several years Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, who is in his 50s, has taken over day-to-day responsibilities for the organizations from Mindel, who is now in his early 80s, said a Lubavitch insider.

Three of the rebbe's five secretaries -- Rabbi Sholem Menachem Mendel Simpson, Yehuda Leib Groner and Binyomin Klein -- are at odds

with Krinsky over who is to control the organizations.

Krinsky has long been the spokesman for Lubavitch. And behind the scenes, Krinsky has been the most powerful member of the inner circle of the secretariat.

With Hodakov's passing and Mindel's decreased activity, Krinsky has been left responsible for the two nearly all-encompassing umbrella organizations of Lubavitch: Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch and Agudas Hassidei Chabad.

"Ultimately, Rabbi Krinsky is in charge of the money angle" too, said the insider, referring to disbursing the donations sent to Lubavitch.

So to Krinsky it apparently seemed natural that he would inherit the responsibilities earlier handled by Hodakov.

But the troika of Groner, Klein and Simpson do not agree. Instead, they believe that financial control and authority should be shared among all of the secretaries.

According to a statement they made, which was broadcast over the Crown Heights Hot Line -- a taped message which can be accessed by telephone -- the three rabbis went in to see the rebbe about this issue.

Rebbe Nods Approval

They phrased their questions simply, in a way that only required a nod or shake of his head in response.

"There is a suggestion that members of the secretariat should all become members of the board of directors of these organizations. Is this appropriate or not?" they asked the rebbe.

He nodded his head, according to a statement made public by the three.

Then they asked the rebbe for approval to control the organizations' finances.

Should "each member of the secretariat be authorized to sign" the organizations' checks? they then asked.

Again, the rebbe nodded his head, according to their statement.

However, said the Lubavitch insider, while the three rabbis asked the rebbe to approve the spreading of power among all the secretaries, they did so without the approval of the other two -- Krinsky and Mindel, who already control the organizations.

The troika have generally been quiet, behind-the-scenes figures in the Lubavitch movement and it is not known how, if at all, they differ in philosophy or approach from Krinsky.

Krinsky did not return repeated telephone messages left for him.

The internal battle has not finished playing itself out.

So it remains unclear whether authority over the worldwide Lubavitch network remains effectively concentrated in the hands of Krinsky, or if, in the end, his three colleagues will be successful in their effort to wrest some of the control from his hands.

Referring to the description of the rebbe giving permission to these men, sociologist Heilman said that even "the idea that the rebbe is making decisions really strains credulity."

"Whoever is interpreting those decisions is really making them," he said.

This latest episode illuminates the beginning of a period of difficulty and dissension for Lubavitch, as those who will lead the organization during the interregnum between this rebbe and the next emerge, say observers.