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**CHRISTOPHER PLANS MIDEAST TRIP  
AS NEW PROPOSALS ON PEACE SWIRL**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA) -- U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will return to the Middle East next week amid discussion of a variety of proposals to break the deadlock in the peace negotiations, including some ideas that would significantly change the current framework.

The need to review the overall situation in the peace talks has become more urgent due to differences of opinion within the Palestinian camp and, to a certain extent, within the Israeli political community on the effectiveness of the present format of the negotiations.

Christopher is expected to focus his talks on the alternatives that have been raised in recent days by both Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and key members of the Palestinian delegation.

Most importantly, these proposals aim to discuss the final status of the territories, rather than merely an interim settlement, in the current phase of the talks.

Both Peres and some Palestinian leaders have renewed talk of creating a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as an alternative to a transitional Palestinian self-government in the territories, which has been the declared goal of the current talks.

Proposals have also been raised to speed up the process of giving the Palestinians certain powers and authority, independent of progress in the peace process.

At least some of these ideas are considered premature by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. His office said the premier feels Israel should continue present negotiations for a transitional period of self-rule, in accordance with the guidelines for the peace talks laid down before the October 1991 peace conference in Madrid.

And in Jordan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam al-Majali declared that a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation could take place only after a settlement between Israel and the Palestinians, and not independently of such a settlement.

The fact that Palestinian influentials such as Saeb Erekat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation, are speaking of reassessing the structure of the peace process is seen here as a reflection of deep division within the Palestinian political community and the need of the moderates to appease the extremists.

**'Judaization' Of Jerusalem Cited**

Palestinian opponents of the peace process convened last weekend in eastern Jerusalem for a mass rally in which the key speaker was Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating team.

The meeting ended with a statement that there would be no peace without the return of eastern Jerusalem to Palestinian sovereignty. It emphasized the right of the Palestinians to achieve their rights in Jerusalem and prevent the "Judaization" of the city.

America's position on the proposals raised by Peres and others should become clearer during Christopher's visit. Initial reports from Washington indicated that the Americans are hesitant to

stray from the Madrid formula, fearing such a deviation might set back the entire peace process.

Christopher is expected to visit the Middle East from Aug. 1 to 5, with likely stops in Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria.

"I wouldn't expect that this trip will achieve any major breakthroughs, but I do think it's a part of a process that we want to pursue with great determination to assist the parties," he told reporters in Washington late last week.

The secretary's trip follows a recently concluded Middle East visit by Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the peace talks, who attempted, apparently unsuccessfully, to jump-start the negotiations from their semi-stalled state.

The Clinton administration has so far focused its efforts on trying to get the Israelis and Palestinians to agree on a joint declaration of principles regarding an autonomy plan.

Part of the problem revolves around the issue of Jerusalem. While Israel feels Jerusalem should not be discussed at this point in the negotiations -- at least in its current format -- the Palestinians disagree.

U.S. officials have been hinting that if progress is not reached soon, they may put a lower priority on the search for Middle East peace.

"This is really the year that they need to try to get into the issues that lie at the heart of this negotiation," State Department spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters in Washington.

"As we say over and over again, we can't do for the parties what they must do themselves, which is to address these issues, make hard choices and go about the work of trying to build a framework for lasting peace in the region."

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Deborah Kalb in Washington.)

**2 ISRAELIS WOUNDED, ONE ARAB KILLED  
AS ISRAEL, SYRIA FACE OFF ON LEBANON**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA) -- Two Israeli soldiers were wounded and a guerrilla killed during a clash in southern Lebanon over the weekend, as Israel and Syria exchanged harsh warnings about the increasingly tense atmosphere on the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin confirmed that the Israel Defense Force had sent reinforcements into the border security zone in southern Lebanon following the deaths of five Israeli soldiers earlier this month.

He said Israel would retaliate for attacks against its soldiers.

At its weekly meeting Sunday, Israel's Cabinet issued an indirect warning to Lebanon and to Syria, whose deputy foreign minister said over the weekend that any Israeli attack on Lebanon would be regarded by Damascus as an attack on Syria.

The Syrian official said his country accepted responsibility for Lebanon, regarded in Damascus as a protectorate.

In the latest border clash Saturday, guerrillas detonated a roadside bomb inside the security zone near Bint Jbail as an armored IDF patrol passed by.

Gunmen then opened fire on the IDF unit

with assault rifles and anti-tank rockets, according to Lebanese security sources.

Responding to the attack, the soldiers opened fire on the gunmen, killing one of them. Other gunmen then returned fire, injured two Israelis and fled.

One of the wounded Israeli soldiers was reported to be in good condition, while the other suffered light to moderate injuries, the IDF spokesman said.

Reacting to the border clashes, the Israeli Cabinet issued a statement Sunday that the IDF was prepared to reinforce its troops in the security zone.

It warned that the IDF was in a position to take action against any attempts to disrupt life in border villages and settlements in Israel or against Israeli forces in the security zone.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur explained later that "it was not exactly a warning. It was rather a restatement of the situation on the ground.

"We are not ready to allow the situation to degenerate again into a series of clashes and counterclashes. The Syrians should know that we are not prepared to remain without a response to attacks on us," he said.

But Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, in a cryptic statement on which he would not elaborate, said, "This is much more than just a warning."

Some media reports hinted that a major military action was in the works.

Later Sunday, Lebanese President Elias Hrawi announced that attacks against the IDF would continue in the security zone until all Israeli forces had left Lebanese territory.

#### U.S. AUTHORITIES USE 'LONG-ARM' LAW TO NAB ARAB HIJACKER FREED BY MALTA By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 18 (JTA) -- A Palestinian terrorist nabbed by FBI agents in Nigeria last week and whisked to the United States is believed responsible for the brutal murder of an Israeli woman and an American woman during a 1985 hijacking incident.

Omar Mohammed Ali Rezaq, who was convicted in Malta of hijacking an Egyptair jet there in November 1985 but released from prison early, was seized last Thursday at the airport in Lagos, Nigeria, and flown to Washington, where he was arraigned.

It was the second time in six years that U.S. authorities have made use of the so-called "long-arm statute," which enables them to prosecute terrorist acts against Americans which took place outside the United States.

It is believed that pressure from Libya caused Malta to free Rezaq, who was serving a 25-year prison term for the hijacking and killings. It was reported that Rezaq, a Palestinian from Lebanon linked to the Abu Nidal terrorist group, acknowledged at his trial in Malta that he had killed the two women.

He was released in February, after having served seven years of his sentence, and went to Ghana.

Ghana complied with an American request to put Rezaq on a flight for Nigeria, where he was apprehended without incident after Nigerian authorities refused him entry to that country in a prearranged deal with Washington.

Rezaq was among either three or five Palestinian terrorists who hijacked Egyptair Flight 648

from Athens to Cairo on Nov. 23, 1985. Reports on the number of hijackers varied.

Two other hijackers were known to have been killed in an inferno of gunfire from Egyptian forces who stormed the plane a day after it landed at Malta's Luqa Airport. The attempt was bungled, and 58 of the 98 passengers on board were also killed.

Rezaq, then 20, was critically wounded.

#### Jews Separated From Others

The day before, Nitzan Mendelson, 23, of Kibbutz Hulata in Galilee was mortally wounded by a point-blank bullet to the back of the head, as was Scarlett Rogenkamp, a U.S. Air Force employee from Oceanside, Calif. Their bodies were dumped off the plane by the hijacker who shot them, allegedly Rezaq.

Mendelson's traveling companion, Tamar Artzi of Kibbutz Revivim, and two other Americans, Patrick Baker and Jackie Pflug, were shot but survived.

Mendelson and Artzi were the only Israelis aboard the Egyptair Boeing 737, which was 10 minutes into a two-hour flight from Athens to Cairo when it was hijacked.

The hijackers separated Americans and Jews from the other passengers, calling names over the loudspeaker.

In response to Rezaq's capture, Abraham Foxman, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League, said, "I welcome an aggressive policy to pursue and to bring to justice -- proper justice, not one tempered by political expediency or blackmail -- those who have carried out acts of international terrorism, and especially directed against U.S. citizens and Jews."

#### AFTER ABORTED TRY AND FOUR APPEALS, ROBERT MANNING IS EXTRADITED TO U.S. By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA) -- Robert Manning, wanted in the United States to stand trial in connection with a 1980 mail-bombing murder of a California secretary, was finally extradited to the United States on Sunday after years of legal wrangling that included four appeals to Israel's Supreme Court.

The Israeli police kept plans for his extradition a secret until the last minute in order to prevent Manning's lawyers from lodging yet another appeal.

In the most recent deterrent to his being taken away last week, Manning avoided extradition at the very door of an awaiting plane because he had swallowed 20 sleeping pills and was too ill to travel.

Sunday, prior to his extradition, Manning was examined by a police doctor, who declared him fit to travel.

Before being whisked away, he called out as he was led up the steps of the TWA jet, handcuffed to one of the two U.S. marshals escorting him: "This is a disgrace for Israel. I am ashamed at what is being done to me. I have done nothing wrong. I shall be back."

Manning and his wife, Rochelle, who are American Jewish immigrants, are both wanted in the United States in connection with the murder of secretary Patricia Wilkinson by a parcel-bomb addressed to her employer.

Israel's Supreme Court has yet to rule on an appeal by Rochelle Manning to block her extradition on charges connected to the crime.

**WHITE SUPREMACISTS IN CALIFORNIA  
TARGETED BLACK AND JEWISH LEADERS**  
By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, July 18 (JTA) -- The FBI and local authorities are continuing an intensive investigation of militant hate groups in Southern California, following the arrest last week of eight white supremacists who were allegedly plotting deadly attacks on black and Jewish targets.

At least one of the suspects told an FBI undercover agent of plans to blow up a leading African American church and machine-gun its congregation, according to the criminal complaint.

Other possible targets included Rodney King, the victim of the famed videotaped beating by white police officers; the Rev. Al Sharpton, a radical black activist from New York; rap music star Eazy-E; and unspecified "Jewish leaders."

The suspects hoped that the attacks would bring them national attention and trigger a race war, the FBI said following the July 15 arrest.

If any of the attacks had succeeded, the reaction would "have made last year's (Los Angeles) riots look like a Sunday school picnic," one black leader said.

The U.S. Attorney's Office would not name any of the alleged Jewish targets. Telephone calls to major Jewish organizations and individuals in Los Angeles and Orange counties did not produce the name of any person who had been alerted of possible danger by law enforcement agencies.

The arrests of the eight suspects in four Southern California counties yielded an arsenal of weapons, a portrait of Adolf Hitler and swastika banners. Most of the suspects are being charged with federal weapons offenses.

Authorities identified the suspects -- four men, two women and two juveniles -- as members of three white supremacist groups, each apparently with its own agenda.

The most militant suspect, Christopher David Fisher, 20, and the two juveniles were said to belong to a shadowy group calling itself the Fourth Reich Skinheads, which allegedly planned the assassinations and attack on the black church.

The other, better-known hate groups were identified as the White Aryan Resistance, or WAR, based in Orange County, and the Church of the Creator, based in Florida.

**Rabbi May Have Been Target**

Initial news stories reported that Fisher had been arrested while preparing a mail bomb to be sent to an Orange County rabbi. The rabbi was not identified, but circumstances pointed to Rabbi Michael Mayersohn of Temple Beth David in Westminster. The temple had been vandalized and smeared with graffiti in January.

Fisher allegedly told an undercover agent that he had at one time lobbed a Molotov cocktail at the temple, but that the incendiary device did not ignite because it was raining.

Mayersohn said in a phone interview that while checking the graffiti damage, inspectors had found a broken window in a remote part of the temple. No sign of the Molotov cocktail was found, and it was uncertain whether the window had been smashed at the same time as the vandalism attack.

Beth David is clearly visible from the busy San Diego Freeway, but Mayersohn said he could think of no other reason why the temple had apparently drawn the attention of hate groups.

In any case, he said, "I am not going to

change who I am and how I present myself because of the bigotry and hatred of others. That is what they would want us to do."

Mayersohn contacted the FBI last Friday and was told that the news reports were exaggerated and that there was no indication that he was a specific target.

An FBI spokesman said that only Rodney King and leaders of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church were warned because they were thought to be the only ones in real danger.

However, Marc Greenberg, the lead prosecutor in the case, said that on the night before the arrests, members of the skinhead group began preparing mail bombs intended for members of the Orange County Jewish community. It was at that point that the law enforcement agencies decided to break off their covert operations and move in on the suspects.

Both Sharpton and Eazy-E have protested the FBI's failure to warn them of possible threats against their lives.

**Genocide As A 'Holy Mission'**

Jewish organizations remained on alert following the arrests and praised federal, state and local agencies for their effective work.

The Anti-Defamation League pointed out that only a few days earlier it had released the seventh in its reports on the threat posed by neo-Nazi skinheads.

ADL officials Jonathan Bernstein in Orange County and Cheryl Azair in Los Angeles saw in the arrests a vindication of the organization's fact-finding methods, which have been under attack by the San Francisco district attorney and the California news media.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said the suspects' alleged plans should show Jewish, black and Hispanic groups that it is in their self-interest to act together against the common threat.

The Wiesenthal Center has been monitoring the Church of Creator for some time.

In one pamphlet, the group speaks of the need to "pull the White Race out of the dismal quagmire of Jewish domination and tyranny."

"We gird for total war against the Jews and the rest of the goddamned mud races of the world," it says.

Rabbi Gary Greenebaum, regional director of the American Jewish Committee, said that "the arrests reflect the violent menace of many skinhead groups and their growing affiliation with other racist and anti-Semitic organizations."

"These organizations, such as the Church of the Creator, cloak bigotry in religious garb in order to make genocide appear as a noble mission," he said.

**BODY OF OTHER MISSING YOUTH FOUND**

TEL AVIV, July 18 (JTA) -- Army hikers have found the body of the second of two brothers reported missing in the Judean Desert.

Nahshon Leibowitz, 18, was buried Sunday next to the week-old grave of his older brother Ophir, 21, in Haifa's military cemetery.

Nahshon's body was found Saturday near the shores of the Dead Sea, less than a mile from where his brother's body was discovered July 13.

Ophir's body was found at the bottom of a cliff, from which he may have fallen, while Nahshon's body was found in a crevice. It is thought he may have been killed by a landslide.

## STRIKE IS LATEST FACTOR TO DELAY COURT RULING ON DEMJANJUK APPEAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 18 (JTA) -- After years of first debating and then drafting its opinion, Israel's Supreme Court is finally ready to issue a ruling on John Demjanjuk's conviction and sentence to death for war crimes committed at the Treblinka death camp as the brutal "Ivan the Terrible."

But the announcement of the court's decision on the former Cleveland autoworker's appeal has been delayed again, this time due to a strike by government workers.

According to the Israeli daily Hadashot, the Supreme Court's opinion, said to be several hundred pages long, was to have been completed by the government printer this week. But the strike has delayed completion of the job.

Hadashot, in a lengthy report on the imminent ruling on the appeal, lodged five years ago, disclosed that an initial printing of the opinion failed to satisfy the court president, Justice Meir Shamgar, because of numerous printing errors.

The draft, produced by an unnamed private printing firm, was unacceptable and required a total revision, Hadashot wrote. Shamgar decided to turn over the job to the state printer, where it is now delayed because of the strike.

No firm date has been set for the announcement of the ruling. It had been expected in June or July, and is now likely to take place in August.

Shamgar has said he will give the news media at least two weeks' notice prior to the date of the public announcement in order to enable local and foreign reporters to make adequate preparations.

That remark has set off speculation about what the ruling might be. Demjanjuk's lawyer, Yoram Sheftel, insists he and his client are both optimistic.

### Demjanjuk Sings 'I'm Going Home'

Sheftel, who visits Demjanjuk in his jail cell each month, said he recently found the convicted war criminal happily singing the Hebrew song "Ani Hozer Habayta" ("I'm Going Home") and tending the small garden he has grown outside his cell in the Ayalon prison.

In any event, Hadashot reported, legal observers in Israel are unanimous that the five-judge bench will send Demjanjuk to the gallows only if there is complete unanimity among the judges as to his guilt.

Demjanjuk was condemned to death by a three-judge panel of the Jerusalem District Court in April 1988, after being extradited from the United States.

He was found guilty of direct involvement in the deaths of some 800,000 inmates at Treblinka.

Several inmates who survived identified him as "Ivan the Terrible," but his defense, both in the trial and on appeal, is that he is the victim of mistaken identity.

The defense received a boost when new evidence from the archives of the former Soviet Union was obtained following the conviction. It pointed to the possibility that another man, named Ivan Marchenko, may have been the "Ivan" of Treblinka.

Other evidence points to the possibility that Demjanjuk served at another death camp, Sobibor.

## FRANCE COMMEMORATES VICHY ROUNDUP AFTER YEARS OF SILENCE ON 1942 EVENT

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, July 18 (JTA) -- France, for the first time, has officially commemorated the roundup and deportation into Nazi hands of tens of thousands of Jews in France carried out by the collaborationist Vichy regime during World War II.

Speaking last Friday at a ceremony at the site of a Paris sporting stadium where thousands of non-French Jews were held after being rounded up in July 1942, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur honored those who were "hurled down into horror and death with the atrocious complicity of the regime instituted under the (German) occupation."

The memorial day, to be marked annually on July 16, has been established to honor the memory of some 13,000 Jews who were rounded up between July 16 and 17, 1942 and held in atrocious conditions at the stadium, the Velodrome d'Hiver.

About 4,000 of the Jews, those without family, were sent to the Drancy internment camp, from which they were deported to Auschwitz. The remaining 9,000, which included 4,000 children, were kept at the so-called Vel d'Hiv for a week and then sent directly to Auschwitz.

Only 30 of those Jews, all adults, returned after the war.

The roundup was carried out by the French police on the orders of Rene Bousquet, who was in charge of the Vichy police.

Bousquet, who had been slated to stand trial for crimes against humanity, was murdered last month at the door to his Paris apartment.

In his speech last Friday, Balladur said, "The memory of the World War II events must inspire our vision of the world of today. It is our duty to transmit to the coming generations this memory."

### Mitterrand Did Not Attend

He also made a point of referring to the current growth of racism, saying, "The world is fragile. Economic privation and nationalist passions give rise to dangerous temptations, generate a climate of anxiety and racist and anti-semitic actions.

"Fortunately, these actions remain isolated but must be fought against and strongly punished from the start," he said.

But President Francois Mitterrand, who in February declared July 16 to be an annual day of remembrance, did not attend the ceremony.

Mitterrand had been accused by Jews and other French citizens of refusing to deal with France's wartime history, and his decree came after years of heated polemics in the media.

The French authorities, including leaders of both left and right, were loath to acknowledge France's responsibility in the mass murder of Jews in the Holocaust, despite clear evidence of the willing role Vichy played in their arrests and deportations.

A campaign in the French media disclosing the role of Bousquet and the Vichy regime in the arrest and deportation of thousands of Jews generated a movement that French leaders were unable to disregard.

Mitterrand's declaration stated that July 16 would become the "national day for the commemoration of the racial persecutions committed under the de facto authority known as the 'government of the French state,' 1940-1944."