

**PARTIES INVITED BACK TO U.S.
FOR NEW ROUND OF PEACE TALKS****By Deborah Kalb**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- The United States and Russia have invited Israel and its Arab negotiating partners to return here at the end of the month for another round of bilateral talks in the slow-moving Middle East peace process.

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said Thursday that the United States had invited the parties "probably within the last 24 hours" to resume their talks here at the end of August.

But the parties are still consulting on dates and timetables with the United States and Russia, the co-sponsors of the peace process, and no official date has yet been set, McCurry said.

Middle East experts have been saying that the talks must achieve meaningful progress quickly if the peace process is to hold together.

But Secretary of State Warren Christopher does not seem to hold out much hope for an immediate breakthrough in the talks.

When asked during an interview Wednesday on the MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour television program if he saw any light at the end of the Middle East tunnel, the secretary responded, "I see a dim light. It's way out there, and I think we ought to pursue it very hard."

At the State Department, spokesman McCurry said Christopher was trying to make progress "inch by inch" on issues where "progress comes painstakingly."

News that the parties were likely to return in several weeks for another set of bilateral talks demonstrated that Christopher had succeeded during his recent trip to the region in injecting some momentum into the process.

The recent fighting in southern Lebanon between Israel and pro-Iranian Hezbollah groups, combined with the disarray among Palestinian leaders, focused attention away from the peace process, making Christopher's task more difficult.

But with the fighting halted and the Palestinians reaching an accord among themselves, the way seems clear toward a quick resumption of talks Israel has been holding separately with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians.

**ISRAELI URGES 'PROFOUND DIALOGUE'
WITH U.S. JEWS OVER PEACE PROCESS****By Debra Nussbaum Cohen**

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- A high-level official of the Israeli government is calling for a "profound dialogue" between Israel and American Jewry to resolve recent tensions between the two sides over American Jewish support for the Labor government's stance in the Middle East peace process.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin spoke of the need for such a dialogue -- involving both the American Jewish leadership and the grass roots -- at a meeting here Thursday of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Beilin addressed the Conference of Presidents immediately after meeting here with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Beilin later described their meeting as "not

simple." He said he criticized the U.N. chief for his condemnation of Israel's recent "Operation Accountability" in southern Lebanon. Beilin said he invited the secretary-general to visit Israel to see for himself the conditions that force Israel to combat attacks along its northern border.

Boutros-Ghali reportedly did not respond to the invitation.

Beilin also met Thursday with the Russian ambassador to the United Nations, Yuli Vorontsov. They discussed the peace process and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to the region.

Israeli government officials have recently made known their dissatisfaction with American Jewish leaders' lack of support for their efforts in the peace process.

A few weeks ago, Beilin himself blasted American Jewish organizations as right wing and said they were not representative of the more moderate, pragmatic views that most American Jews hold.

At Thursday's meeting with the Conference of Presidents, Beilin clarified his remarks by saying that American Jewish groups have earned a reputation with the U.S. administration and the United Nations as "rightist organizations."

They are perceived as "fighting organizations," because they focus on opposing American efforts to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia, for instance, rather than working in a more positive way for peace, he said.

'Blind Following' Is A Mistake

American Jewish organizations should not serve as "an embassy of Israel," Beilin told the conference. "A blind following of any (Israeli) government of the day is a mistake."

"American Jewry is entitled to express its views separately and collectively," he said.

In fact, American Jewish groups have been quite vocal lately in expressing their views on the Middle East peace process, and they are not always in accord with the Israeli government's stance.

Earlier this week, a coalition of American Jewish groups opposed to trading land for peace launched a campaign to "redirect" the Middle East peace process.

The Coalition for Israel, as it is called, is sponsoring a petition drive to convince the Israeli government to hold a national referendum before it agrees to any territorial concessions in the peace process.

Apparently in response to this campaign, the dovish group Project Nishma issued a statement Thursday, signed by more than 100 prominent Jews, lauding the peacemaking efforts of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the Clinton administration.

It ran as a full-page advertisement in several American Jewish and Israeli newspapers.

Among those signing onto the statement were Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Alfred Moses, president of the American Jewish Committee; Robert Lifton, president of the American Jewish Congress; and Rabbi Irving Greenberg of CLAL, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership.

**SOME 70,000 GATHER TO PROTEST
RABIN POLICIES IN PEACE TALKS****By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Opponents of the Labor government's policies in the Middle East peace talks concluded a five-day series of demonstrations this week with a rally that attracted some 70,000 protesters.

The rally, sponsored by West Bank settlers and right-wing supporters, including an American-based group, was held Wednesday night in Clore Park, between Tel Aviv and Jaffa, to protest what they view as a land-for-peace giveaway by the Rabin government.

Among the speakers were two former army chiefs of staff, Gens. Ariel Sharon and Rafael Eitan, both of whom spoke of the strategic importance of the Golan Heights for Israel's security.

The rally organizers, the American-based World Committee for Israel and Israeli right-wing groups, had originally planned a mass torchlight procession along the Tel Aviv seashore promenade to Labor Party headquarters opposite the Dan Hotel.

But they were prevented from doing so by the police, who said it would cause massive traffic jams and security risks in the tourist and cafe-restaurant area.

Police officials instead gave the organizers permission to hold the rally in a nearby park.

Among the entertainers were popular Israeli singer Yoram Gaon and an American singer, Avraham Fried.

The protesters denounced the ban on marching to Labor headquarters, saying it was their "natural right" to demonstrate there.

Two of the protesters did, however, manage to get into the building by showing guards at the door a piece of paper purporting to be written permission to meet with a senior party official in his top-floor office.

Once inside the building, the two unfurled long banners denouncing Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and suspended them down the front of the building.

No Mandate To Talk With PLO

The signs, written in Hebrew, said, "Rabin has no mandate to speak with the PLO" and "Labor led by Meretz is purifying the unclean," a sarcastic swipe at the coalition government, which includes the dovish Meretz bloc.

The banners were soon removed by the police, who took the two into custody, charging them with trespassing.

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza organized the five days of protests, during which they and their followers lived in a tent camp in the seaside Charles Clore Park.

Earlier in the week they had staged a mock landing of "Palestinians returning to their ancestral homeland" -- Jews costumed as Palestinians -- on the Tel Aviv shoreline to show what they believe will happen should the Rabin government's policies be implemented.

In what was one of their final demonstrations, protesters boarded buses Wednesday evening and traveled to the Ramat Aviv home of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Rabin's neighbors, complaining about the incursion into their quiet neighborhood, told police the prime minister was not home and had

not been living there for some weeks, as structural repairs were being carried out on the house.

They asked why a demonstration by "well-armed individuals" had been allowed at all.

Many of the torch-bearing demonstrators were carrying rifles or automatic weapons.

The demonstrators said they would leave the Rabin residence and move on to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' nearby home.

The police pointed out they had no permission to demonstrate at that address either. The settlers then boarded their chartered buses and returned to their tented camp.

Settlement leaders said they will plan additional high-profile demonstrations in the future "until we shake Rabin from his shaky prime ministerial chair."

**EGYPT ENVOY TO ISRAEL OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT PROGRESS OF MIDEAST TALKS****By Cynthia Mann**

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Mohammed Basiouny, said Thursday he expects that the parties to the Middle East peace talks will sign joint declarations of principles by the end of the year.

That, he said, will mark the start of "a new era of cooperation and development."

Basiouny made the remarks in Eilat prior to giving an upbeat speech to members of the United Jewish Appeal Prime Minister's Mission, a delegation of contributors who have given a minimum \$100,000 each to the UJA campaign.

In his speech, Basiouny praised the progress that has been made in the 14 years since the peace treaty was signed between Egypt and Israel, saying it had "exceeded all optimistic expectations."

He said the people of the Middle East have paid a steep price for war and for the absence of peace. It is impossible to overemphasize the "integration between peace and economic prosperity," he said.

Peace and regional economic cooperation are vital for each Middle East nation's viability, the ambassador said. Without them, "no country can remain competitive in the face of the huge economic power emerging in Europe."

Basiouny said Egypt and Israel must be creative and imaginative and look at new joint ventures. "We have everything necessary to make this area a paradise," he said.

The ambassador conceded that the Egyptian peace with Israel has been a cold one, but said that has changed since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has come to power.

The two countries' "political dialogue is excellent" and "fantastic," he said.

"I trust you realize the depth of (our) commitment to peace," he added. "Egypt is making every effort to achieve a comprehensive peace."

"People need to see that peace leads to economic development and jobs, and is not just the absence of war," said Jack Kemp, former U.S. secretary of housing and urban development, who was a "guest scholar" on the mission.

"You are right," the ambassador responded.

After the speech, the members of the mission, whose theme revolves around prospects for peace, crossed the Egyptian border into Taba, the resort area which Israel returned to Egypt after years of negotiations. There, they met with Egyptian business leaders.

**JEWISH GROUP DEMANDS APOLOGY
FOR AN ANTI-SEMITIC AD IN JAPAN**
By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) -- A large advertisement in Tokyo's leading financial newspaper, claiming that Jewish financiers were plotting to topple the imperial family and dismember Japan, has drawn a demand for "an apology to the Jewish people" by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

The headline in the one-third-page ad in the Nihon Keizai (Nikkei) -- Japan's equivalent of the Wall Street Journal -- said "the stock crash, the high yen and the political turmoil (in Japan) are no coincidence. After defeating Europe, America and Russia, Jewish capital is now after Japan."

The July 27 ad was placed by Daichi Kikaku, a small publisher of books on economics and stocks, mainly to promote a three-volume series titled "The Last Enemy: Shoot Japan."

To indicate how far the plot by "Jewish industrial and financial groups, centered around the Rothschilds" had advanced, the ad displayed a 5,000-yen note.

An annotation affirmed that the picture of Mount Fuji on the back of the note was actually an outline of Mount Sinai, proving that Japan's Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan were already under Jewish control.

In his letter to the president of Nikkei, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Wiesenthal Center, wrote that "It is difficult to quantify the sense of shock, anger and indignation that so distinguished a Japanese newspaper as yours would stain its good name by prominently displaying an advertisement which gives credence and respectability to blatant and outlandish lies about the Jewish people."

Cooper told the Los Angeles Times that an apparent resurgence of anti-Semitism in Japan was linked to rising hostility toward the United States.

Newspaper Didn't Think Ad Slanderous

Anti-Americanism "is the way (anti-Semitism) keeps its shelf life and its strange acceptability in mainstream areas," he said. "It would be laughable if it weren't so tragic."

The Los Angeles Times reported that in a written response to its correspondent's question, a top Nikkei executive said that the newspaper had a policy against accepting slanderous ads, but did not think that the ad under discussion fell into that category.

The publishing house that placed the ad declined to discuss its "Jewish plot" books but asserted that "we are satisfied that the author checked his facts."

In a recent survey, only 1 percent of Japanese said that they knew or had ever met a Jew.

Neil Sandberg, director of the American Jewish Committee's Pacific Rim Institute, commended the Wiesenthal Center for its protest action but suggested that Japan's recent record had both shadows and lights.

Sandberg, who meets frequently with Japanese government and media leaders, noted that the Japanese government recently came out strongly against the Arab economic boycott of Israel, reversing decades of tacit compliance.

Two of Japan's largest newspapers have carried op-ed articles condemning the spate of anti-Semitic books and Israel-bashing, Sandberg said. Even so, he noted, "anti-Semitism in Japan is an ongoing problem."

**HOLLAND IS SHOCKED AFTER NEO-NAZIS
DESECRATE GRAVES OF ALLIED WAR DEAD**
By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Holland has reacted with shock to the neo-Nazi desecrations of more than 200 graves of Allied soldiers who fell during World War II.

Right-wing extremists Tuesday spray-painted neo-Nazi graffiti on the graves in the Allied Military Cemetery near Nijmegen, which is close to the German border.

The incident occurred just one month before the 49th anniversary of an ill-fated Allied attempt to cross the Rhine over a German-held bridge near Nijmegen -- a battle made famous in the film "A Bridge Too Far."

In the cemetery were buried the 1,642 Allied soldiers who lost their lives in the battle for the liberation of Nijmegen in February 1945.

The tombstones were painted with swastikas and slogans in English, Dutch and German saying "Heil Hitler," "White Power" and "Foreigners Get Out."

A stone bearing the legend "Their Names Live Forevermore" had also been spray-painted.

A spokeswoman for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in England described this as the worst desecration in over 20 years.

Hundreds of people from across the Netherlands gathered in the rain at the cemetery Thursday to protest the desecration.

Local citizens of Nijmegen put the blame on neo-Nazi thugs from across the border, but some spelling mistakes in the German graffiti have cast doubts on the theory.

A team of 12 policemen are attempting to track down the vandals, but officials say they have no leads so far.

**POLICE FIND REMAINS OF BLACK MAGIC
OUTSIDE ROME JEWISH CEMETERY GATE**
By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Police here found what appeared to be the grisly remains of a sacrifice outside the Jewish cemetery in Rome, but it was unclear whether it was an anti-Semitic provocation or remnants of a satanic Black Mass ritual.

Shortly before midnight Tuesday, a security guard noticed a box outside the cemetery gates and, fearing it might be a bomb, called the police emergency squad.

There has been a spate of terrorist bombings in Italy over the past several months. The bomb squad, however, found not an explosive device inside the box but rather a small, partially burned wooden table covered in black cloth, to which a heart had been impaled with four nails, a police spokesman said. "It was the heart of an animal, not human," he said.

The spokesman added that there was nothing specifically anti-Semitic inherent in the grisly discovery, no anti-Semitic slogans or swastikas.

"To me, it seems more like the remains of a Black Mass or something other than an anti-Semitic act," he said.

But investigators were looking into the possibility that, given the location, it was a provocation by neo-Nazi skinheads.

There have been several recently publicized cases of Black Masses and satanic ceremonies in Italy, including one this past week at a Christian cemetery in Milan.

**RABIN REFUSES TO DISMISS DERI,
REJECTING ADVICE OF LEGAL AIDES**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Rejecting the legal advice of both Attorney General Yosef Harish and Justice Minister David Libai, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is insisting that Interior Minister Aryeh Deri should remain in office until charges are presented against him in court.

Deri, who heads the fervently Orthodox Shas party, a member of the governing coalition, is accused of committing acts of bribery, fraud and breach of the public trust, but these charges cannot formally be brought against him until the Knesset removes his parliamentary immunity.

The Knesset House Committee is scheduled to convene Sept. 26 to review the immunity question, which eventually would have to be voted on by the full parliament.

Rabin said Wednesday that he would honor his agreement with Deri that the interior minister would only leave after an indictment against him is presented in court.

The prime minister was referring to a letter Deri had submitted prior to the formation of the government last summer in which he said he would leave office if and when a charge sheet against him was presented in court.

Although Rabin himself made no reciprocal commitment, he regarded the agreement he made with the Shas party when he formed the coalition as implying just that.

Speaking Wednesday on Israel Television, Rabin indicated he would not suspend Deri or ask him to take a leave of office.

"A prime minister cannot disregard his own commitment," especially when it is "the basis of the present coalition agreement," he said.

But Rabin added that he would honor any ruling by the Supreme Court on the matter.

Differences With Justice Minister

The prime minister's stand creates an unprecedented situation in which he has come out strongly in defense of a minister charged with serious crimes despite the fact that such a stance has created a major confrontation with the government's own legal institutions.

It is one of the few instances in which the prime minister has acted contrary to the advice of the attorney general, who is regarded as the legal adviser of the government.

The situation has put the attorney general into an impossible position in which he may have to explain to the court why Deri is still in office -- contrary to his own publicized opinion that the interior minister should step down.

The court on Tuesday gave the government two weeks to respond to an appeal by the Movement for Quality Government why Deri should not be relieved of his duties.

Justice Minister Libai reiterated his view Thursday that Deri should step down, explaining that the only reason the indictment had not yet been submitted in court was because the Knesset had not lifted Deri's parliamentary immunity.

Relations between Rabin and Libai have sharply deteriorated in the past week due to the justice minister's stand in the affair.

Rabin criticized Libai in the television interview. When asked, Rabin would not say if he intended to dismiss the justice minister.

And Libai himself said he had no intention of resigning.

**MARK SEAL WILL LEAVE JTA
TO TAKE A POSITION AT HIAS**
By Mitchell Danow

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- After serving 11 years with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Mark Seal is stepping down from his position of executive vice president to become chief operating officer at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

Seal joined JTA as business manager in October 1982 and became the agency director one year later. In addition to overseeing the agency's finances and personnel, he has been responsible for maintaining JTA's relations with the Jewish organizational world, Jewish newspapers throughout the country and abroad, and JTA's own board of directors.

He has also worked with JTA Editor Mark Joffe to redefine the agency's editorial direction.

"JTA is fundamentally different since when I took over," Seal said, pointing out that the staff is now more professional and has a stronger Jewish background.

He said the agency's editorial product has also changed greatly. "We used to put out one Daily Bulletin that was produced on a typewriter, which had to serve all of JTA's constituencies. We couldn't tailor our product to meet the special needs of our member publications."

JTA's editorial focus, he said, used to be on coverage of events, "but it is now on issues, trends and developments."

He also noted how JTA has integrated all the latest technologies for receiving, editing and disseminating stories for its readers.

Reflecting on all the progress that has been made since he first arrived, Seal gave credit to JTA's board of directors, "who have been supportive and encouraging throughout."

Concern About Funding

Seal said that JTA in recent years has undergone a period of cutbacks caused by the recession and by the need of Jewish community federations to direct major portions of their funds to cover the mass emigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

"We've never been funded sufficiently, never had any financial reserves," he said. "Frankly, we're now worried about our ability to maintain our current level of editorial operation."

Seal described the changes in the American Jewish press over the past decade in similar terms to those he used for JTA itself. "They have journalists who are now better trained. There's better writing, better editing and better graphics."

Seal, 42, a native of Montreal, is a graduate of McGill University, where he was a Zionist activist. He lived in Israel from 1974 to 1978, when he was responsible for the business and financial operations of Kibbutz Gezer.

He became an American citizen in October 1992 -- "just in time to vote in the presidential election."

He will be the associate executive vice president at HIAS, reporting to Executive Vice President Martin Wenick.

"HIAS is an institution I've long admired," said Seal. "While I'm sorry to leave JTA, I look forward to joining the HIAS staff, where I'm eager to help develop the agency's policies and future direction."

Seal will be leaving JTA in the fall. Among his final duties, he will be working with the search committee to help find his replacement.