

**TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA SUSPENDED
BY ISRAEL IN THE FACE OF U.S. CONCERNS**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Israel's decision to suspend diplomatic contacts with North Korea has put an end to a high-level governmental debate on how to deal with the Communist country's sale of Scud-C missiles to Iran and Syria.

The decision, made by top Cabinet officials here Monday, has also removed a potential irritant in U.S.-Israeli relations.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had expressed doubts for some time that Israel could convince the North Koreans to stop the sale of the missiles, which would have the capability of striking targets in Israel.

But Rabin did not oppose diplomatic contacts between the Foreign Ministry and North Korean diplomats in an effort to persuade them to change their policy.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had been more sanguine about the possible benefits of talks with the North Koreans, but by Monday, he, too, seemed to have lost hope.

The Foreign Ministry issued a statement Monday that the decision to suspend contacts with North Korea had been made "to allow the U.S. to stop the supply of ballistic missiles from North Korea to Iran and Syria."

The ministry said an agreement to this effect had been reached as a result of consultations between Washington and Jerusalem.

During a meeting last week in Washington with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, Samuel (Sandy) Berger, the White House deputy national security adviser, reportedly asked that Israel refrain from making any further contacts with the North Koreans.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said Monday that "senior U.S. officials have told Israeli officials that the United States is concerned about contacts between Israel and North Korea, especially at a time in which the entire North American community has very serious, unresolved concerns regarding North Korea's nuclear program."

International Effort Needed

U.S. officials had also expressed concern over the issue to American Jewish organizational leaders, but the Jewish community had not taken a formal position on the Israeli contacts with North Korea.

"The Jewish community understands the U.S. sensitivity," Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said Monday.

But he added, "We hope the U.S. will step up its efforts in view of the requests it has made of Israel."

"We are not satisfied that enough is being done to contain and deal with the (missile) exports," he said. "It is going to take an international effort to cut off these supplies. The Europeans have to be more forceful."

Israel, which does not have formal ties with North Korea, began to establish contacts this year

in hopes of stopping the North Koreans from selling arms to Iran and Syria.

Israeli officials and North Korean officials had a meeting in Beijing last week in which the North Koreans reportedly agreed to continue talking about stopping the transfer of missiles to other countries, particularly Iran.

They also reportedly said they wanted to continue contacts with Israel, although they balked at the idea of establishing diplomatic relations.

Appearing on Monday before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Peres said Israel had come to the conclusion that the United States had a better chance than Israel of convincing the North Koreans not to supply Iran and Syria with missiles.

Peres suggested that one way of persuading North Korea to change its mind was for the United States to extend it economic aid worth \$500 million -- an option "which is quite difficult for us," he said.

While that option may be financially difficult for Israel, it is likely to be politically difficult for the United States, which would be wary of extending aid to one of the world's last Communist regimes.

Russia Supplied Cargo Planes

Another worrying angle in the Korean missile transactions has been the involvement of Russia, which has been supplying huge cargo planes to ship Scud-C missiles to Syria.

Rabin said over the weekend that on Aug. 8 Russian planes had carried Scud-C ballistic missiles from North Korea to Damascus.

Noting that perhaps a part of the shipment had then been sent on to Iran, he said pointedly, "The arms race is going on."

The Russian involvement is seen here as a new component in the North Korean arms deals.

So far, most of the missiles had been shipped to Syria via sea, with only the smaller parts flown in from North Korea or Iran.

The Russian aerial involvement now speeds up the process, allowing large parts to be flown directly from North Korea to Syria, where they would subsequently be assembled.

The Russian involvement is seen here as a sharp deviation from Moscow's recent policy, which has shown a readiness to refrain from reopening the arms race in the Middle East.

Moscow, in fact, is a signatory to a pact limiting the export of missiles with a range exceeding 186 miles. The range of the Scud-C is 310 miles.

It is still unclear here whether the Scud-C shipment is a one-time incident or reflects a change in Russian policy.

Washington has already appealed to Moscow on the issue, and Israel is expected to follow suit.

Syria has been holding negotiations with Russia on a new arms deal, which so far has not been worked out because Syria has not yet paid its previous debts.

Military experts in Israel note that the continued arming of Syria, whether through Russia or North Korea, shows that although Syria is continuing its involvement in the peace process, it is also proceeding with military options.

JEWISH SETTLEMENTS NOT NECESSARY FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY, RABIN ASSERTS

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Jewish settlements in the administered territories are not critical to Israel's security and may even get in the way of it, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a group of Jewish leaders here.

His remarks Sunday to a State of Israel Bonds delegation seemed part of a stepped-up campaign by Rabin to distance himself from Jewish settlers as they intensify their protests of his government's foreign policy and plans for the territories.

Indeed, Rabin's comments came on the same day the settlers met with President Ezer Weizman to complain of efforts by the government to delegitimize their struggle.

Rabin recalled the Yom Kippur War, in which the Golan Heights settlements had to be evacuated and the residents "interfered with the activity of our military forces. They were innocent targets" for the enemy," he said.

He emphasized that it is the military, not the settlers, which must decide what is necessary for Israel's security.

Rabin disclosed that following the recent visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Russian planes began delivering Scud missiles to Syria, probably for use by Syria and Iran.

He also said it appears the Lebanese army has been deployed to quell tensions along the border with Israel at a lesser rate than had originally been thought. He said that was evidence of Syria's failure to disarm Hezbollah guerrillas.

Netanyahu Gets Applause

Also addressing the Bonds group was Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition Likud party. He proposed stretching out the interim Palestinian autonomy arrangement in the Gaza Strip for at least 20 years. Under the 1978 Camp David accords, only a five-year interim period was envisioned.

Netanyahu said that on the Golan Heights, he would make a "functional arrangement" with Syria, predicated upon concrete proof by President Hafez Assad that Syria is not a threat to Israel's security.

He said his approach to Syria would "end up with a much better position for Israel than the current position that says, 'have all or most of the Golan.'"

His remark drew applause from his listeners.

In Gaza, said Netanyahu, the residents, unlike those of the West Bank, "are not citizens of any country," therefore posing a special problem. "I would not propose to define the final status of these Arabs for the next 20 years. I wouldn't touch it."

"I would say run your daily lives, (while) we will have security, we will have sovereign control. But I will not make a determination about Gaza because it is fundamentally different," he said. "It is also less vital for our security concerns and is more important from the political" perspective.

The Golan, on the other hand, is strategic territory, he said. Before making any agreement with Syria, he said he would tell Assad, "Move your army, reduce your army and we'll talk about other arrangements vital to your survival, such as water."

ISRAELI COURT CLEARS WAY FOR MANNING'S EXTRADITION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Israel's Supreme Court has rejected an American immigrant's appeal, saying she should be extradited to the United States to stand trial for a 1980 bombing in California.

An expanded five-justice Supreme Court panel declared Monday that Rochelle Manning, 53, should be extradited in connection with the 1980 murder of an American computer-company secretary, Patricia Wilkerson, by a parcel bomb.

Rochelle Manning's husband, Robert Manning, 41, was extradited July 18 in the same case and is currently awaiting trial in California. He has pleaded not guilty in the case.

Justice Minister David Libai will sign the extradition order within a few days, according to a ministry spokesperson.

The U.S. extradition request charged the Mannings, who immigrated to Israel in 1981, with mailing an explosive device to the Prowest Computer Corp. in Manhattan Beach, Calif., as a result of a 1980 business dispute.

The parcel bomb, disguised as a new invention, was addressed to Wilkerson's boss, Brenda Krothmel. Wilkerson opened the package and was instantly killed by the explosion.

According to the U.S. charge sheet, the Mannings sent the bomb at the instigation of their friend, William Ross, who had a business dispute with Krothmel.

Neither of the Mannings is charged with making the bomb, but both were charged with conspiring to mail an explosive device with intent to kill.

The Mannings, who live in the West Bank town of Kiryat Arba, are followers of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League and extremist Kach movement.

Supporters of the couple who were present in court at the time of Monday's ruling shouted curses at the justices and were forcibly ejected by bailiffs.

Rochelle Manning's lawyer had argued that returning her to the United States would constitute double jeopardy, since she was tried on the same charges in 1988, following her arrest at Los Angeles International Airport.

The Israeli judges ruled that the double jeopardy claim could not be upheld in this case, as the earlier trial had ended in a hung jury and she therefore could be tried again.

POST-MORTEM CIRCUMCISIONS OPPOSED

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Israel's Ashkenazic chief rabbi has ruled that circumcisions should not be forcibly performed on anyone -- whether they are alive or dead.

Commenting on post-mortem circumcisions that are performed without the permission of the family, Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau said, "The Chief Rabbinate sees circumcision as a privilege and not something that should be forced on anyone."

His statement came in response to recent disclosures that some Orthodox-controlled burial societies were performing ritual circumcisions on the uncircumcised bodies of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

The circumcisions were performed, often without family permission, as a prerequisite for burial in a Jewish cemetery.

BRAZILIAN MEDIA ACCUSE ISRAELIS OF SMUGGLING BABIES FOR ORGAN USE
By Rochelle G. Saidel

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Charges against an Israeli couple caught in an illegal attempt to smuggle a baby out of Brazil have escalated into what might be termed a high-tech blood libel.

An Israeli woman, Sipirit Friedman, and an Israeli man, Alon Benjamin, said to be her friend, were arrested last week along with six Brazilians on baby-smuggling charges.

The woman had been stopped at the Rio International Airport, where she was attempting to board a plane for Europe; in her arms was a 15-day-old baby who had false registration papers.

Local media soon pounced on the story, announcing that agents of the Division for the Protection of Children and Adolescents, with the assistance of Interpol, had been tracking a gang specializing in illegally shipping babies to Europe and Israel.

Once in Israel, these reports accused that the babies were having their organs removed and sold for transplants.

The arrests of Friedman, Benjamin and the six Brazilians were linked to the police's ongoing attempts to arrest the gang of organ sellers.

According to the Israeli Consulate in Rio and the newspaper Jornal do Brasil, the source of the accusation linking the Israeli couple with the ring selling babies' organs was Walter Alves de Oliveira, the director of the Division for the Protection of Children and Adolescents.

But de Oliveira told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that neither he nor the Division for the Protection of Children and Adolescents had made the accusation regarding selling babies' organs in Israel.

"We have no proof of selling organs in this case," he said. "But we do have proof of an attempt to illegally remove a baby from Brazil to a foreign country."

'No Proof Of Selling Organs'

Friedman, who is being held in a prison for women in Rio, claimed she came to Brazil to adopt a baby with documentation legalized in Israel.

She denied participation in any organ-selling plot, adding that she already has one adopted Brazilian child.

She said she is awaiting documents from her husband in Israel, David Friedman, that will attest to her innocence.

The other Israeli, Alon, refused to discuss the case.

The penalty for removing children from the country for financial gain is four to six years in prison.

In wake of charges that Israel is a center for the sale of babies' organs, the Israeli consul general in Rio, Azriel Gal-On, gave a statement to the media saying the accusations are "absolutely false, mendacious and abominable."

"Jewish law, as well as the law of the State of Israel, completely prohibits the use of organs of any human being after his or her death, without the approval of the family.

"Even when the hospital has the approval of the family of the deceased, the religious sector of Israel fights against this possibility.

"Moreover, before performing each transplant, the approval of a tribunal composed of

three doctors is necessary. We must emphasize that this law is extremely rigid and strictly controlled by the minister of health of Israel."

A similar story arose in Guatemala five years ago when a Guatemalan paper charged Israelis were stealing babies to use for organ transplants. There, too, the Israeli Embassy denounced the charge as untrue and defamatory.

POLICE IN GERMAN TOWN CRITICIZED FOR ALLOWING MARCH BY NEO-NAZIS
By David Kantor

BONN, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- The police force of the central German town of Fulda was harshly criticized by both Jewish and governmental leaders for letting 500 neo-Nazis march in a parade honoring Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler's deputy.

The neo-Nazi march took place Saturday after police in several federal states banned neo-Nazi demonstrations scheduled to mark the death of Hess six years ago.

Police throughout Germany arrested more than 30 neo-Nazi activists while blocking roads to deny access to suspected demonstration sites.

But a large number of the right-wing extremists finally managed to gather in Fulda, where they promptly started a demonstration.

The Jewish community of Germany is calling for an investigation into how the demonstrations were able to take place.

Ignatz Bubis, chairman of the German Jewish community, said Monday that left-wing activists attempting to demonstrate against the neo-Nazi marchers had been stopped by the Fulda police, who in turn protected the right-wing extremists.

On Sunday, a number of members of the Bundestag protested the failure of the Fulda police to prevent the neo-Nazi march.

The opposition Green Party called for the resignation of Fulda's police chief and said it would request a Bundestag debate on the ineffectiveness of the police.

"We cannot tolerate the idea that Nazi marches are legal in this country and even enjoy police protection," a Green Party spokesman said.

Authorities in Fulda defended their behavior, saying the march was a "spontaneous" event rather than an organized rally.

They said the police were not equipped to deal with the large number of neo-Nazi activists, and stressed that the local security forces were busy enough trying to separate neo-Nazis from leftist groups trying to disrupt the rally.

Ever since Hess committed suicide in Spandau Prison, where he was serving a life sentence, neo-Nazis have tried to turn his grave in the Bavarian town of Wunsiedel into a place of pilgrimage.

They argue that Hess did not take his own life but was killed by Allied troops who were assigned as guards at the prison, where Hess was the sole prisoner.

ISRAEL SENDS MEDICINE TO NEPAL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Israel has sent a shipment of medicine to Nepal in the wake of the recent flooding in the Himalayan country.

The shipment was sent Monday at the request of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The 330-pound package, coordinated by the Israeli Foreign Ministry, included about 30 types of medicine that had been requested by Nepalese authorities.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

BOSNIANS SEARCH FOR JEWISH ROOTS, A SECURITY BLANKET AMIDST THE WAR

By Mark H. Milstein

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Ljerka Danon is a sleuth.

As the Sarajevo Jewish community's designated genealogist, Danon, 63, has since the start of the 17-month-long civil war in the former Yugoslavia spent her days scouring through the record books of the city's last remaining synagogue, aiding Bosnians in search of their Jewish roots.

Danon, a horticulturist by trade, said her interest in genealogy began when many Bosnians -- unsure of their heritage -- approached her in hopes of discovering if they were Jewish.

"All of a sudden there was a rush by Bosnians to discover who they were. Were they Serb, Croat, Muslim or Jewish?" she said.

"Before the war, no one cared if you were from one group or another. They all wanted to be Yugoslavs. Now it means everything," she explained.

Danon said with a half-smile that being Jewish in the midst of the Bosnia conflict is a source of security, as Jews are not expected to serve in either the Serb, Croat or Muslim armies and have not yet been asked to ally themselves with one group or another.

"Yes, we still suffer the same as the other Bosnians," she said. "We still get shot at, our homes still get bombed, none of us have running water or electricity. But there is no outward anti-Semitism. We are not a direct part of the conflict."

Danon described Bosnia as a mixing bowl of cultures and religions.

"There are so many people here born of mixed marriages that it is no surprise that so many don't know who they really are," she said. "That's where I come in."

Danon, whose husband is also Jewish, said she too is the product of a mixed marriage.

"My mother is Jewish and my father is a Croatian Catholic," she said. "We weren't brought up in a religious household, so it wasn't important."

Intermarriage Saved Jews

Danon said many of Yugoslavia's once-large Jewish community were saved by mixed marriages during World War II.

"If we wanted to survive as a people in one form or another, we had to intermarry," she said.

According to Danon, Sarajevo's Jewish community numbered nearly 1,500 before the civil war, but nine evacuations later it now hovers around 700.

Jewish historians for many years referred to Sarajevo as "Little Jerusalem," or El Chico Jerusalaim, as it was known in Ladino. There are still eight buildings in the old city constructed as synagogues.

"Through my searches I've found almost 200 new members" of the Jewish community, Danon said.

Danon said her methods are quite simple, explaining that she got her first lessons in genealogy from another amateur genealogist, a local judge.

"I had no idea how to do this," she said, thumbing her way through a tattered book chronicling the 19th-century birth records of the

city's Sephardic community.

"It's all here. All the records of birth, death and marriage. As long as there have been Jews in Sarajevo, someone has written it down in one of these books."

Danon said an average search takes about a day, with more complex searches taking upward of a week or longer.

"If someone comes to me with all of the papers in order, I can find out if they are Jewish the same day," she said. "The problem with many people, however, is not whether they are Jewish or not, but how Jewish are they."

"Most come from families where perhaps their grandmother or grandfather was Jewish," she continued.

"Then their parents were perhaps in a mixed marriage and they themselves were too. So they come to me wanting to know if their children or their grandchildren are Jewish. That is a very difficult question to answer," she said.

GERMAN GOVERNMENT GRANTS \$5.8 MILLION TO GROUP TO BUILD JEWISH LIFE IN EUROPE

By Kenneth Dancyger

NEW YORK, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- The government of Germany has awarded the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture a grant of 10 million deutsche mark (\$5.8 million) to help in the foundation's efforts to rebuild Jewish life in Europe.

At a recent meeting here, Erhard Holtermann, Germany's consul general in New York, presented a check for half the amount to Jack Spitzer, chairman of the foundation's executive committee. The remaining amount will be paid next year.

This donation "clearly demonstrates that the Federal Republic of Germany and the German people are determined to respect their historical liabilities and to give priority to further cooperation with the Jewish community," Holtermann said in presenting the grant.

The foundation was established in 1965 with \$10 million in reparation payments from what was then the West German government. West Germany gave the foundation an additional \$10 million a year or so later.

The foundation has helped to support a network of Jewish cultural institutions designed to bring about the rebirth of Judaism in Europe and elsewhere.

It has also launched programs to train scholars, educators and communal workers to help replace those who perished during the Holocaust.

This is the first gift from the German government since the 1960s. It resulted from a meeting last summer involving Jerry Hochbaum, executive vice president of the foundation, Lord Immanuel Jakobovits of England, president of the group, and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

At the meeting, Hochbaum said, the two foundation leaders discussed with Kohl the organization's 25-year history of putting together the shattered pieces of Jewish culture in Europe. Subsequently, Kohl recommended that the German Parliament present the foundation with the gift of 10 million deutsche mark.

Since funds are allocated annually, the grant has not yet been budgeted to specific foundation projects.

The gift will most likely be used to continue scholarship and fellowship programs sponsored by the foundation.