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LITTLE PROGRESS SEEN IN WASHINGTON, BUT ISRAELIS STILL HOPEFUL ON ACCORD

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Israeli officials attending the latest round of the peace talks here are still hopeful that a proposed agreement for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho could be signed by Sept. 13.

But State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said Tuesday that no date had yet been set for a signing ceremony because "at this point we're waiting to hear from the parties themselves on the status of their discussions."

As Israeli and Arab negotiators continued their talks here, there was little substantive progress reported.

Instead, everyone seemed to be waiting for news from the Middle East about a proposed mutual recognition pact between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

That pact, although not spelled out as a prerequisite, is nonetheless seen as important to the success of a proposed agreement for limited Palestinian self-rule that was reached last month and approved last week by the Israeli Cabinet.

The accord was hammered out during a series of secret meetings between Israeli and PLO officials far from the limelight of Washington.

The Israeli ambassador to the United States, Itamar Rabinovich, was quoted in the Israeli newspaper Hadashot as saying that Israel might be more flexible now about one particular sticking point in negotiations over an Israeli-PLO mutual recognition pact.

Israel, he said, would not demand that the Palestine Covenant, the PLO's political charter, be repealed by the Palestine National Council prior to such a pact.

Arafat has been anxious to avoid calling a meeting of the more than 400 members of the PNC at this stage, since it could provide a platform for his opponents and could slow down the signing of the agreement with Israel.

Still Hoping For Sept. 13 Signing

Rabinovich was quoted as saying that Israel, recognizing the difficulties involved, would settle for a declaration by the PLO leadership, repealing those sections in the covenant calling for the destruction of Israel, to be followed by a formal confirmation at a later date.

Eytan Bentsur, the Israeli negotiator with the Palestinians and Jordanians, voiced optimism Tuesday about a signing ceremony that would be held here on Sept. 13, a date proposed by the United States.

"I am hopeful that by Monday we will all witness a signing ceremony," he said. "The chances seem quite good as of today."

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Bentsur said that Israel hoped the signing would be a "dual achievement," formalizing both the plan for limited Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and Gaza as well as the Israeli-PLO mutual recognition pact.

Both Bentsur and Rabinovich expressed optimism that future agreements with Jordan and Syria will come as a result of the breakthrough on the Palestinian negotiating track.

Israel is currently in the 11th round of talks with the Palestinians, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Rabinovich, who also serves as chief negotiator with the Syrians, told a group of Jewish journalists Tuesday that there was no progress, but "no acrimony either" in the latest negotiating session with the Syrians.

The two parties have been stalled for weeks over some key definitions: Israel wants Syria to define the "full peace" it is offering in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights; the Syrians want Israel to spell out the extent of that withdrawal before they make any offer of peace.

Syrian negotiator Mowaffak al-Allaf emerged from Tuesday's meeting with a decidedly negative assessment.

"Unfortunately, there is no progress whatsoever," he said, echoing remarks he made in previous negotiating rounds.

Before traveling to Egypt and Oman to secure support for the draft agreement on Palestinian self-rule, PLO leader Yasir Arafat left Damascus on Monday with only a qualified statement of support from the Syrian leader.

Rabinovich called Syrian President Hafez Assad's "lukewarm endorsement" of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement "not a disappointment."

With Congress now back in town, questions are beginning to arise about the cost of paying for the implementation of Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and Gaza.

Rabinovich said Tuesday that the United States had done a great deal to help the peace process, and "need not be encumbered" by providing the Palestinians with large amounts of aid.

"The emphasis," he said, "is on other nations providing the bulk of the financial aid."

Scandinavian and European countries, as well as possibly Japan and the wealthy Arab states will provide the bulk of the aid, the Israeli officials said.

The World Bank has summoned a meeting for Palestinians, other Arab countries and Israelis in Washington for Sept. 20 to discuss the economic needs of the territories. According to the World Bank, the territories will need some \$4.3 billion in investments within the next 10 years.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Gil Sedan in Jerusalem.)

**OPPONENTS OF PEACE WITH PLO
STAGE MASSIVE RALLY IN JERUSALEM**
By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- Some 50,000 Israelis opposed to a peace accord with the Palestinians poured into Jerusalem on Tuesday night, clogging roadways and bringing parts of the city to a virtual standstill.

More than 2,500 police were on hand to maintain order at the demonstration, which had been planned by right-wing opposition groups and had been heralded with much advance publicity.

The demonstration, which was held near the offices of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, followed a rally Saturday night in Tel Aviv for supporters of the proposed peace agreement.

According to the police, some 40,000 Israelis had attended the previous demonstration, although

estimates on both rallies varied widely, with some sources reporting up to 200,000 at each.

The agreement, which was endorsed last week by Israel's Cabinet, calls for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho as a first step toward extending Palestinian authority to the administered territories.

It was reached after months of secret meetings by high-level Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organization officials.

While a helicopter patrolled from above, police made several arrests during the latest rally. They also confiscated tires, gasoline and firecrackers that had been hidden by the demonstrators, apparently to be set afire during the demonstration.

Hours before the rally began, police began closing off several major roads around the city. Others were jammed with buses bringing settlers from the territories.

Among those arrested, according to police officials, were several activists with the militant Kach movement who had threatened to provoke civil unrest.

"Is there anyone among us who believes Yasir Arafat?" asked Likud chief Benjamin Netanyahu, one of the headline speakers at the rally, referring to the leader of the PLO.

"Is there anyone here who is ready to sacrifice Israeli security to the PLO? You say no. But there is someone that is not concerned with what you say. It's Mr. Rabin," he said, referring to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

One of the demonstrators told Israel Radio that if land is given to the Palestinians, "there will be a (civil) war here and this government will fall."

"This government had no right" to enter into the agreement, she said. "It is a treacherous government that did it all behind the backs of the people, in secret, because they knew the people are against it."

Rabin reportedly was planning not to go to his office Wednesday, because the protests were scheduled to continue through the night Tuesday and into the following morning.

Protesters Planned To Sleep On Streets

The protesters planned to sleep on the streets and surround Rabin's office as well as the nearby Knesset building in order to disrupt regular government business Wednesday.

A day before the rally here, Rabin sharply attacked his hard-line critics, dismissing them as "tellers of lies" and "prattlers."

"I am ashamed when I hear leaders in the Likud and in the extreme right comparing our situation today to the period of the Holocaust," Rabin said at a Labor Party rally in Rishon le-Zion on Monday.

"How can anyone talk of a Palestinian menace with Jews who have such a strong IDF?" Rabin asked, referring to the Israel Defense Force.

Elsewhere in Israel, Jewish militants were anticipating their own response to the proposed peace agreement.

In one such case, Baruch Marzel, a Kach activist from Hebron, reportedly said that he could not wait for the IDF to leave Hebron -- a step not immediately envisioned in the draft agreement for Palestinian self-rule -- so that the Jews of Hebron "could take care of the Arabs."

Palestinian extremists were meanwhile planning their own response to the peace initiatives.

In a meeting of 12 Palestinian and Islamic fundamentalist organizations held in Lebanon on Monday, militant Arabs vowed to unite and defeat the proposed peace accord.

And on the same day, Palestinian terrorists struck in Jerusalem.

Three fire bombs were thrown at the Mt. Zion Hotel swimming pool during a bar mitzvah reception.

There were no fatalities, but one child and two women were slightly wounded.

The attack took place shortly before midnight. There was an explosion, and suddenly the dance floor was on fire.

The hotel is located on a hill overlooking Mt. Zion and the Old City, adjacent to the Arab neighborhood of Abu Tor.

It was the first terrorist attack in Jerusalem in several weeks, and was immediately linked by observers to the proposed agreement for Palestinian self-rule.

The attack served as a reminder that extremists on both sides were determined to prevent progress in the peace process.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Gil Sedan in Jerusalem.)

IDF RESERVIST OF RIGHT-WING BELIEFS SENTENCED FOR REFUSING ARMY CALL-UP **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- For the first time ever, an Israel Defense Force reservist with right-wing sympathies has been tried and jailed for refusing a call-up for military service.

In the past, scores of reservists with left-leaning sympathies have been detained in military stockades for refusing to carry out their duties in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Their refusal to respond to call-up orders was typically based on the grounds of conscientious objection to undertaking police duties in the territories, where armed reservists often find themselves in head-on confrontations with rock-throwing youths.

Their punishments generally ran from 14 to 28 days' detention in military stockades. But many of them have served consecutive terms for rejecting new call-up orders that were handed them as they left the army stockade after their initial prison term.

Now the first so-called right-wing "refusenik" has been sentenced for refusing to obey a call-up order. His refusal was a protest against the government's peace policy.

The incident occurred, however, before Israel and the Palestinians reached a preliminary agreement for Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Reserve Capt. Mordechai Karpel, 40, a resident of the Bat Ayin settlement in the Etzion bloc south of Jerusalem, sent a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin several weeks ago, refusing a reserve call-up notice.

He stated that Rabin's policy was "leading unequivocally to the establishment of an alien state in the Land of Israel."

Karpel was sent home at the time without any action taken, other than to send him a second call-up order. But he again rejected the order and sent a second letter to Rabin, who also retains the portfolio of Israel's Defense Ministry.

Karpel was this time put on trial for refusing an IDF order and was sentenced last week to 14 days' detention.

NEWS ANALYSIS: AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS APPROACH MIDDLE EAST CHANGES CAUTIOUSLY

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Sept. 7 (JTA) -- When Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres secretly briefed Secretary of State Warren Christopher last month about the proposed accord with the Palestinians, Christopher wanted to know: Are the American Jews on board?

It is a question with profound implications for the peace process. American Jews have long provided a key channel for promoting Israeli policy in this country and tempering U.S. policy in the Middle East.

They are now faced with a sea-change in that policy. Whether and how they choose to support it will not only affect the outcome of the negotiations, but could dramatically change the nature of the organized community itself and its relationship with Israel.

At their meeting, Peres assured Christopher that he had already briefed the leadership of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

It has been no secret that Christopher and other American policy-makers have been mindful of the American Jewish reaction to architects of every Middle East peace accord until now: From Henry Kissinger to Jimmy Carter to George Bush, the American Jewish response has been to "throw the bums out."

This, despite the gratitude in Israel for the American role in bringing about the 1991 Madrid peace conference, the 1978 Camp David accord and earlier disengagement agreements.

The current American administration was so concerned over domestic fallout, in fact, that it refused a request from Israel and the Palestinians to play the part of heavy in the ongoing peace negotiations, according to a report in The New York Times.

Had the Americans been willing to appear as if they were imposing an accord on them, both sides would have found it easier to sell the pact to their constituents.

This reluctance on Christopher's part is a reflection of the fact that in many instances, the organized American Jewish community seems more deeply conditioned against peace with the Arabs than does the leadership of Israel.

Deep-Seated Antipathy Toward Arafat

Decades of being briefed on Israeli policy and then working tirelessly on its behalf have drilled into American Jewish leaders a deep-seated antipathy toward Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir Arafat and his allies.

And organizing support for peace defies the long-accepted wisdom that the only way to rally the troops and raise funds from a constituency with disparate views is through fear.

"For us, the Israelis, the state is an existential matter," wrote columnist Nahum Barnea in Yediot Achronot last week.

"For them, (American Jews), it's an emotional matter. For existence, we will go to war and make peace. For emotions, they have developed over the years a hatred for the PLO and its head," Barnea wrote.

"It's easy to hate, purely to hate, when your children aren't paying the price."

For all these reasons, even though American Jews by and large have always supported the

Labor Party's policy of territorial compromise, American Jewish organizational support for the Israeli-PLO breakthrough has been tempered by serious concern.

The proposed Israeli-Palestinian agreement, which was endorsed last week by Israel's Cabinet, calls for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho as a first step toward extending Palestinian authority to the administered territories.

The suddenness of the secret accord, and its apparent fragility until it is publicly signed in Washington, has encouraged caution and hesitation from Jewish groups.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the influential pro-Israel lobby, is gearing up to educate members of Congress and the Jewish community about the recent developments. It may be put in the rather unique position of lobbying on behalf of the Palestinians.

"We're not at the stage yet" to discuss that notion publicly, said an AIPAC spokesperson.

The statements put out by the Conference of Presidents and other organizations which had not previously endorsed a policy of land for peace were supportive, but cautiously so.

Accord Contradicts Years Of Israeli Policy

A central factor in the lukewarm reaction is that the emerging Israeli-PLO entente flies in the face of what American Jews have been told for decades by Israeli governments, and have passed on in turn to the American public.

They were told that the PLO could not be a partner for peace, that the territories are vital for Israel's security and that a Palestinian state is a grave threat to Israel's security.

This view was so ingrained that when six months ago the Conference of Presidents was asked to accept as a member Americans for Peace Now, by only a narrow vote of 21-17 did it avoid deferring the membership of the only Jewish organization whose policies are those underlying the Oslo accord.

So rather than fully endorse the accord, it was much easier for most Jewish organizations to release a motherhood-and-apple-pie statement applauding Israel's willingness to take bold steps for peace, warning of the risks involved and urging the Palestinians to fully change their ways.

Israel plans to continue and step up the efforts to explain, and sell, its policy to American Jews. Peres is scheduled to visit five cities in September; Rabin will address the Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly in November.

In effect, American Jewish organizations face a challenge of explaining how Israel will be helped by the policy, not simply the risks it is facing. They will be asked to place their trust in Israeli leaders and not in their past experience.

And they will be asked to work actively to make sure that the process goes as smoothly as possible. The position taken by the mainstream organizations of American Jewry could have serious repercussions for any peace proposal.

American taxpayers can expect to be asked to help underwrite the development projects seen as necessary for viable Palestinian self-rule.

"People used to believe it was pro-Israel to vote for aid for Israelis and against aid for Arabs. Those days are gone," said Mark Rosenblum, policy director of Americans for Peace Now.

"Certainly it would help Israel do what it wants to do if the American Jewish community doesn't stand in the way of a Jericho and Gaza aid package," he said.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: DROP IN UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN MEANS CUTBACKS IN JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK (JTA) -- A nationwide drop in United Way donations means bad news for battered women in New York, troubled families in Los Angeles and elderly people in Cleveland.

They will all receive less help from Jewish organizations this year, as the agencies that serve them pass on expected cuts in United Way allocations.

Similar cuts are being experienced across much of the country as, for the first time in at least 20 years, the United Way of America reported a drop in its annual campaign. The estimated \$3.04 billion given to local United Way campaigns in 1992 represents 4.1 percent less than the 1991 total.

The United Way allocates the money raised in its workplace-centered campaign to non-profit social service groups and hospitals.

Jewish social service groups -- including boards of family and children's services, vocational programs, old-age homes and community centers -- are among those beneficiaries, receiving more than \$50 million nationwide each year.

The decline in the United Way's campaign, which follows two years in which the campaign increases did not match inflation, is attributed largely to the economy.

Also cited as playing a role is possible donor backlash at the scandal surrounding former United Way National President William Aramony, who was forced to retire after charges of financial extravagance and mismanagement were leveled against him.

"Jewish agencies aren't the only ones hurt and affected" by the downturn in the campaign, said Claire Austin, a spokesperson for United Way. "Many agencies, particularly smaller ones, are really hurt by being cut."

But of more concern is that while these cuts are more severe than in the past, they continue a trend of fewer and fewer United Way dollars being allocated to Jewish institutions.

According to a study by the Council of Jewish Federations, even as United Way receipts went up more than 6 percent from 1989 to 1991, the amount allocated to Jewish federations and their affiliated agencies fell.

The percentage of the United Way campaign received by 77 federations reporting for the study dropped from 2.89 percent to 2.69 percent over those two years.

Move Toward Designated Giving

This trend is being attributed to a move toward designated giving by United Way campaigns, which allows donors to target their money to higher profile organizations. The move away from federations is also attributed to the entry of newer philanthropies at the allocations table.

All this comes as the Jewish agencies on the receiving end of the United Way campaign fear being shortchanged by a Jewish community increasingly placing issues of religious identity and assimilation ahead of the social welfare concerns addressed by these institutions.

And while federation officials deny that they are targeting their social welfare services for cuts, it is clear that with federation campaigns basically stagnant, the Jewish community is unable to make up any gaps in United Way funding.

"Because of the impact of the recession on our campaign, and cutbacks in government funding, agencies will for the most part have to reduce their services to the most needy" by the amount of the United Way cutbacks, said Stephen Solender, executive vice president of New York's UJA-Federation.

UJA-Federation and its agencies last year received about \$4.7 million from the United Way.

In the New York area, regional United Ways have announced across-the-board cuts ranging from 8 percent to 25 percent, including 17 percent for New York City.

"One-fifth of the dollars those agencies were counting on won't be available this year," said Solender.

New York's Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services was counting on \$580,000 from the United Way. It is now expecting only four-fifths that amount this year.

Therefore, said Paul Levine, the board's associate executive vice president, the agency is considering trimming its volunteer programs.

These include programs that escort people through New York's anarchic family court system and run a hot line for battered women.

This Money 'Makes The Difference'

While the sum may seem small compared to a \$70 million total budget, "this kind of philanthropic money makes the difference in providing more than the basic services, anything that the government doesn't consider a valid service to reimburse, or too sectarian," said Levine.

In Los Angeles, similarly, the Jewish Family Service has over three years seen its United Way grant slashed from \$705,000 to \$320,000. Each dollar cut, said Executive Director Sandra King, cuts the amount of counseling available for those in need.

In theory, the central "federated" campaigns of the United Way and the Jewish federations were designed to eliminate the need for charities to compete with each other for donors.

With the failure of the central campaigns to meet the needs, however, this concept is breaking down and agencies like the Los Angeles Jewish Family Service are increasing their efforts to raise funds independently.

Jewish organizations are also falling particular victim to a United Way effort to reverse the decline of its campaign. The effort, known as designated giving, allows United Way donors to designate the beneficiary of their choice.

Jewish boards of family and children's services "are not agencies people think of when it comes to designated giving," said Bert Goldberg, executive vice president of the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies.

"Designated giving goes to organizations with a higher visibility," such as the Red Cross, he said.

Within the Jewish community, designated giving is being closely watched because it is being touted by some as a solution to the stagnant returns of federation campaigns.

At the New York federation, where some version of donor designation is being considered, Solender saw "a warning in all this for all of us, because they have permitted designated giving to become a very important part of their campaign, and it has definitely hurt their central fund."

"We'll have to be very careful in how we introduce donor choice into our campaign," Solender said.