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**ISRAEL AND JORDAN SIGN ACCORD
SPECIFYING COMPONENTS OF TREATY**

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- In the wake of the historic Israeli-Palestinian accord signed at the White House this week, Israel and Jordan have taken a major step toward peace by signing an agreement specifying the components of a future treaty.

The signing of the agreement Tuesday at the State Department was less high-profile than Monday's Israeli-Palestinian ceremony featuring President Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat.

But the move is nevertheless significant, because it is the first indication that progress can be made on tracks other than the Israeli-Palestinian one in the bilateral negotiations Israel is conducting here with Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians.

The Israeli-Jordanian agreement is a framework for the two countries to negotiate such issues as security arrangements, arms control, territorial disputes, the refugee problem, water rights and economic cooperation.

Israel and Jordan have long been on the verge of initialing this agreement. The Israeli-Palestinian accord signed Monday on self-rule in the administered territories apparently gave the final push needed to push this agreement through.

The document was initiated by Elyakim Rubinstein, chairman of the Israeli negotiating team with the Jordanians, and Fayez Tarawneh, the Jordanian ambassador to the United States. Secretary of State Warren Christopher presided over the ceremony.

'An Extraordinary Week'

"This really is an extraordinary week for the Middle East peace process," Christopher remarked during the ceremony.

"Yesterday I expressed the hope that we could see progress toward a comprehensive peace settlement between Israel and all of her Arab neighbors. Today we take a very important step toward that very comprehensive peace with the initialing of the Israeli-Jordanian substantive agenda," he said.

Rubinstein, who also serves as Israel's cabinet secretary, spoke of the promise of peace in the region.

"The Israeli-Jordanian relationship will continue to constitute a major cornerstone in the great enterprise of peace," he said. "We should vigorously work credibly and reliably to make the dream culminating in a treaty of peace come true."

Tarawneh of Jordan expressed his hopes for the agreement.

"We hope this first step will be translated through the substantive and lengthy negotiations that will follow into an agreement based on comprehensive peace that will positively transform the lives of all people in the area," he said.

Also present at the ceremony were Russian Foreign Ministry official Viktor Posuvaluk, Eytan Bentsur from the Israeli delegation to the peace talks and Jordanian official Marwan Muasher.

**RABIN AND PERES VISIT MOROCCO
AMID HOPE FOR DIPLOMATIC TIES**

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- The historic Israeli-Palestinian signing ceremony at the White House this week has already had a far-reaching diplomatic impact, with several longtime enemies of Israel announcing interest in establishing relations with the Jewish state.

Officials here were expecting Morocco to make such an announcement soon, following a surprise visit to that country Tuesday by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

In the event of such a decision, Morocco would be the first Arab state since Egypt to establish formal ties with Israel.

Malaysia and Zimbabwe have also indicated they would like to inaugurate ties with Israel, and officials here say they expect other Arab and Muslim countries to follow suit.

Tunisian officials reportedly have said they are ready to establish official ties with Israel as soon as another Arab country does so.

Tunisia is slated to host the next round of multilateral talks on refugee issues, scheduled for Oct. 12-14, which will include Israeli participation.

Meanwhile, the Muslim countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan reportedly have also welcomed Israel's historic agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Pakistan has in the past been one of Israel's harshest critics.

Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Mohammed Basiouny, said Tuesday that the more progress that is made toward solving problems between Israel and its neighbors, the more likely Arab countries will be to establish diplomatic ties.

Rabin Seeks 'His Majesty's Advice'

Rabin and Peres made their surprise visit to Morocco on their way home to Israel after the signing in Washington on Monday of the landmark agreement on Palestinian self-rule.

Upon his arrival at Rabat airport, Rabin told reporters he had come to Morocco for the meeting with King Hassan II "to get his majesty's advice concerning a rapprochement between Israel and the Arabs."

Rabin said that after "mutual recognition and the signing of the agreement with the PLO in Washington, we hope and believe it's possible to widen the relations among the Arab states."

Rabin visited Morocco secretly in 1976, and Peres has met with Hassan on several other occasions, all of which were low-profile visits.

But on this occasion, they were given an official welcome before being escorted to the king's Atlantic seaside palace.

The king has long maintained a positive attitude toward Israel, but has refrained from establishing diplomatic ties in advance of neighboring Arab states. He has also met with Jewish groups in the past.

In August, the king granted a private audience to an American Jewish philanthropist, S. Daniel Abraham of Palm Beach, Fla., as well as other representatives of the Center for Middle East Peace and Cooperation.

Abraham presented the king with a check

for \$100,000 from the center in honor of a new mosque to be dedicated in Casablanca in the king's name.

In Israel, Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who was serving as acting prime minister in the absence of Rabin, said Tuesday the meetings in Morocco mean the agreement signed Monday has ushered in a new era, whose hallmark would be the normalization of relations with "many Arab and Islamic countries."

"There is no need to sneeze into a country as we did before," he said.

In the wake of the signed declaration of principles between Israel and the PLO, said Shahal, "there is no reason why we cannot have diplomatic relations" with other Arab countries.

He said it is "only a matter of time" and not a "question of principle" before Saudi Arabia would recognize and establish ties with Israel.

"I certainly see a new Middle East," he added. "Maybe in a few years we will deal with questions of the environment instead of talking about questions of war and peace."

Israeli President Ezer Weizman said at a diplomatic reception to celebrate Rosh Hashanah that he hoped next year, Basiouny would not be the only Arab ambassador in Israel.

While he cautioned that there are many "ups and downs" ahead, he expressed confidence that Israel and its Arab neighbors could achieve a comprehensive peace.

Meanwhile, opposition parties continued to criticize the Israeli-PLO agreement as a threat to Israel's security.

Likud Knesset member Ze'ev "Benny" Begin, son of the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who signed the Camp David accords, called the agreement "a very severe blow to the State of Israel and to the cause of peace in our region, in total contrast to the Camp David accord."

Begin pledged Likud would work to convince the Israeli electorate that the Labor government is on the wrong track and should be replaced.

The Knesset is due to vote on the Palestinian self-rule agreement next Tuesday.

2 ATTACKS ON ISRAELIS IN GAZA FAIL

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- Two separate terrorist attacks against Israeli targets Tuesday in the Gaza Strip failed and resulted in the deaths of two terrorists.

In one of the incidents, a Palestinian with explosives strapped to his body ran into the courtyard of a police station in Gaza City and detonated the human bomb.

No one other than the suicide bomber was hurt, and no damage was reported.

Earlier in the day, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian who lunged at them with a knife at an observation post. One of the soldiers was slightly wounded in the assault.

Israeli officials have been on a high state of alert following promises by Palestinian rejectionists to step up their attacks in order to thwart any reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis.

On Sunday, three Israeli soldiers were ambushed and killed by gunmen of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

Later that same day, an armed terrorist boarded an Egged bus on the road from Ashdod to Ashkelon and stabbed the driver to death after he had stopped the vehicle and put up a fight.

PLO AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS DISCUSS SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN TERRITORIES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- Palestinians will need six months to build an effective police force in the territories and 18 months to construct a strong security force, high-ranking Palestine Liberation Organization officials have told Israeli security experts.

With this information as a guide, the PLO officials said the Israel Defense Force should first withdraw from peaceful areas and leave troublesome refugee camps for the end, according to Joseph Alpher, director of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, who participated in the discussions.

The Palestinian self-rule agreement signed in Washington on Monday stipulates that IDF forces will begin their withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho by mid-December.

Complete withdrawal of the forces was set for mid-April of next year.

Alpher said the PLO officials and Israeli security experts had also discussed the possibility of equipping the Palestinian forces with armored personnel carriers, machine guns and spotter helicopters.

Meetings Began Last Year

The meetings began in October 1992 and were held at two-month intervals under the auspices of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

In addition to Alpher, who is a former Mossad official, the Israeli team included reserve Maj. Gen. Shlomo Gazit, a former chief of military intelligence who is currently senior researcher at the Jaffee Center; and Zeev Schiff, a writer on defense issues for the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

The three participated in the talks on a personal basis and had no government backing.

The Palestinians, however, were formal representatives of the PLO, according to Alpher.

The PLO team included Nizar Amar, military adviser to Mahmoud Abbas, who signed the declaration of principles with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Monday at the White House; Ahmed Khalidi, the defense adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks; and Yazid Sayigh, who heads the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral talks on arms control.

Alpher said the meetings led him to believe that Israeli and Palestinian security officials can find solutions to the problems involved in implementing the new Israeli-PLO accord.

According to Alpher, there was an "understanding" that the Palestinian security forces will need armored personnel carriers and machine guns for their patrols.

The patrols will need "something which will give them a decisive edge" over squads of the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas, "who will barricade themselves in the (refugee) camps," Alpher said.

Armored personnel carriers "are no threat to Israel's security, but a PLO force of a few thousand men backed by a few spotter helicopters and good command could prevent a bloodbath," he said.

The Palestinians want their police force to be very impressive from the moment it appears on the scene, "so that the people will see they have a police," Alpher recounted.

ARAFAT MAKES ROUNDS IN WASHINGTON, AND IS TREATED LIKE A WORLD LEADER **By Deborah Kalb**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- As he made the rounds in Washington following the signing this week of the historic accord on Palestinian self-rule, Yasser Arafat was enjoying himself.

From the halls of Capitol Hill to the august ballroom of the National Press Club, the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, clad in military-style suit and his trademark checkered kaffiyeh, was treated like any world leader who had just completed a successful diplomatic maneuver.

At the conclusion of his well-received luncheon speech in the press club ballroom Tuesday, club President Clayton Boyce handed him a certificate of appreciation, which Arafat, with a big grin on his face, held up for all to see.

Boyce also gave the PLO leader a press club mug and a photography book to audience applause.

Before leaving the podium, Arafat clasped both hands over his head in a victory gesture.

The entire picture was somewhat surreal, considering that just a week earlier, Arafat and anyone else connected to the PLO would not even have been allowed into Washington because of their longtime ties to terrorism.

But with the landmark agreement for Palestinian self-rule having been solemnized Monday on the world's collective television set, it was clear that Arafat was attempting to present himself in a new light to Washington's power brokers.

Repeatedly in the course of his speech, he said that the Palestinians were beginning a new era, "opening a new page with open hearts."

He glossed over some of the serious issues still facing Palestinians and Israelis, such as the future status of Jerusalem, saying, "If there is a will, there is a way."

Says Palestinians Need Loan Guarantees

Flanked by Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi and PLO official Yasser Abed Rabbo, Arafat received numerous ovations from his listeners, who also laughed at a number of his rejoinders to the questions posed by the audience and read by moderator Boyce.

At one point, he said he would definitely tell the U.S. Congress that the Palestinians were "in need of loan guarantees," clearly a reference to the \$10 billion in loan guarantees provided by the United States to Israel over a five-year period.

When asked why Jewish people should trust him now, he responded by saying that many people did not originally trust Jesus. He added that Jews and Moslems were "cousins," having both descended from the biblical Abraham.

Arafat spent a good part of the day on Capitol Hill, trying to seek support from congressional leaders for implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

From members of Congress, long wary of him, Arafat said he had received "promises they would do their best."

Large sums of money will be necessary to raise living conditions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, where the autonomy plan is to be implemented first. Among the countries considered possible donors are Saudi Arabia, the Persian Gulf states and Japan.

After an afternoon on Capitol Hill, Arafat was to travel to New York to meet with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

ISRAEL FREES SOME OF DEPORTEES ALLOWED TO RETURN FROM LEBANON

TEL AVIV, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- Israeli officials have released from detention 57 of the 181 Palestinian deportees they had allowed last week to return from southern Lebanon.

The release of the men, all alleged members of Islamic extremist groups, followed Monday's historic signing in Washington of an accord on Palestinian self-rule in the territories.

The Palestinians who were released had been prisoners when they were ordered deported to southern Lebanon last December, following several terrorist attacks within Israel.

They had been returned to detention centers for further questioning and, in some cases, to await pending trials.

The 207 deportees remaining in southern Lebanon are scheduled to return in December.

The deportees, who were suspected members of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements, have been living in a tent camp at Marj al-Zahour, Lebanon, some two miles north of Israel's border security zone.

In all, Israel deported 415 Palestinians to Lebanon last year, following a series of murderous attacks by Muslim extremists within Israel.

Some of those men were freed early when they fell ill or after it was determined that they had been mistakenly identified as members of militant fundamentalist groups.

3 IDF OFFICERS TO BE COURT-MARTIALED FOR NEGLIGENCE IN TRAINING ACCIDENT **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- Three officers with the Israel Defense Force, one of them a general, are to be court-martialed for negligence, according to the IDF's chief military prosecutor.

The prosecutor, Brig. Gen. Ilan Schiff, announced Tuesday his decision to try Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine -- said to be the most senior IDF officer ever to be put on trial -- as well as an unnamed IDF major and captain.

Schiff reached the decision after studying the findings of a special investigative committee headed by reserve Maj. Gen. Menahem Eitan.

The negligence charges stem from an accident that occurred at the Tze'elim training grounds in the Negev last November, in which five soldiers of one of the army's most elite units were killed and six others injured.

The casualties occurred when a missile misfired during a training exercise and slammed into a group of soldiers taking part in the exercise.

In addition to the three officers to be tried, Schiff announced that Maj. Gen. Uri Saguy, head of military intelligence, should be given an administrative reprimand.

The military censor clamped a thick veil of secrecy over the incident at the time it occurred. Among the few details that have filtered out since then, it became known that the ill-fated exercise was being observed by top IDF officials and was a preparatory exercise for a strike at Iraq.

On the basis of the Eitan report, Schiff concluded that the charges should be filed against the captain who issued the order to file the missile; against the major who planned the training exercise; and against Levine, who approved the exercise.

JEWS AND ARABS CHAT, EXCHANGE CARDS AFTER RABIN AND ARAFAT BREAK THE ICE

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Sept. 14 (JTA) -- Only hours after the historic Israeli-Palestinian peace accord was signed at the White House, Jewish and Arab American leaders were breaking bread together and warmly chatting about economic development projects for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In a scene no less revolutionary than the handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat, Jaweed al-Ghusin, treasurer of the PLO, could be seen Monday night chatting and exchanging business cards with Steven Grossman, president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

The two were among 700 people at a Washington reception sponsored by the American Jewish Congress, the National Association of Arab Americans and Project Nishma.

The reception culminated a day in which leaders of both the Jewish and Arab communities shared a numbing mixture of euphoria and caution at events both would have viewed as unthinkable and perhaps undesirable only weeks ago.

It was a day which also began the possibility of a shared agenda, as both groups can now be expected to push for American support for the nascent peace and the Palestinian economic development necessary to maintain it.

They also shared their first day of joint public appearances, beginning at the signing on the White House lawn, concluding with the reception, and featuring in the middle a special briefing for the two communities by President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

At the briefing, Clinton was said by participants to have set a tone of reconciliation and, in effect, an agenda of joint American Jewish-Arab action.

He asked that Congress be pressed to maintain its engagement with foreign affairs; suggested individual and collective support for projects aiding autonomy; and asked that those with contacts in the Middle East use them to be supportive of the peace process.

Clinton's Remarks 'Tilted' To Israel

The president's remarks, said Henry Siegmán, president of the AJCongress, showed "that he understands above all that America must worry about the security risks Israel is taking.

"To that extent, his approach was not a balanced one, but tilted very much to Israel, for good and necessary reasons. Because only Israelis have something tangible to give up. I think he showed extraordinary sensitivity and insight," said Siegmán.

If the American Jews felt comforted by Clinton's approach, so did the Palestinian Americans, for whom the public recognition of Arafat was a vindication of their identity.

One stood up and told Clinton, "I noticed that when I used to be introduced to people, and would say 'I'm a Palestinian,' people would take two steps backward. So I would say I was Lebanese.

"After today, I don't have to do that," the man said. "Thank you."

Another man, standing up and introducing himself as a Palestinian from Gaza via Los Angeles, turned away from the president and toward

the other people in the room, and said, "To my Jewish friends, shalom," to loud applause.

Jews and Arabs sat interspersed during the briefing. Sitting next to Lester Pollack, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, was Najat Arafat Khelil, president of the Arab Women's Council.

Khelil's description of her emotions of "reserved happiness" echoed those of many American Jews.

"Things have developed too fast for me to digest and see the reality of it. I think I will express my happy feelings once I see the steps on the grounds and things are fulfilled. I don't want to be euphoric and then be disappointed," Khelil said.

Yet, despite this rational reserve, at the joint Jewish-Arab reception the mood was one of hugging and celebration. Jews crowded around to talk with senior PLO official Nabil Sha'ath, while Arabs did the same around Israeli ambassador to the United Nations Gad Yaacobi and New York Consul General Colette Avital.

Mainstream Jewish Leaders In Attendance

The Jewish leaders present included not only those who had sought out Palestinians for dialogue in the past, but quite mainstream representatives of such organizations as the Anti-Defamation League and Hadassah. Several former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents were in attendance, as well.

Similarly, top leadership of several Arab American organizations were present.

With a backdrop of Israeli and Palestinian folksingers, and before a buffet of Middle Eastern food, Jews and Arabs peered at each other's name tags and introduced themselves to strangers they had long seen as enemies.

At one point, the singers broke into a rendition of the civil rights anthem "We Shall Overcome."

The crowd, including one elderly Jewish couple standing on a table, began swaying and singing along, according to participants.

"There's always been this hunger to reach out to the other side, and the floodgates opened," said Project Nishma Executive Director Tom Smerling.

"A lot of these people are wealthy businessmen on both sides," he said. "They're talking about setting up an advisory body, to advise on raising the money and how to get private funds for economic development" in the administered territories.

"It was interesting and exciting to see people mixing and exchange cards, talking about mutual projects, helping build the infrastructure in Gaza and Jericho," said Khelil of the Arab Women's Council.

"And at the same time, what was important to me, that I could see the sincerity, that people were serious that they wanted to do something," she added.

AIPAC's Grossman cautioned that it is far too soon to say that joint agendas have been developed.

Nonetheless, describing the day as an "extraordinary, out-of-body experience," he said there was "some discussion of the possibility of private business enterprises, of opportunities for joint venturing.

"Sometimes agendas can overlap. As people get to know each other, those relationships will build," Grossman said.