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**PLANS FOR RABIN-ARAFAT MEETING  
SEND SHOCKWAVES THROUGH ISRAEL**

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- The surprise announcement that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would meet with Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat in Cairo on Wednesday has sent shockwaves through the Israeli political establishment.

The scheduled meeting, which was to be hosted by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, would be the first encounter between Rabin and Arafat since their uneasy but historic handshake on the White House lawn last month sealed a preliminary agreement on Palestinian self-rule in the administered territories.

News of the planned meeting caught many by surprise here, because Rabin is widely regarded as suspicious of Arafat and not convinced of the PLO's readiness to make peace with Israel.

But sources in Tunis, where the PLO headquarters is located, said the meeting was convened at Israel's request. Israeli officials, however, declined to confirm this.

According to Oded Ben-Ami, a spokesman for Rabin, the meeting will "smooth the start of negotiations on the implementation" of the agreement signed in Washington.

The face-to-face encounter comes after a week in which Arafat charged the Israeli leader with subverting the peace process.

In two separate letters of protest to the Israeli government during the past week, Arafat charged that recent Israel Defense Force raids on suspected terrorist locations in the Gaza Strip and West Bank have violated the principles of the self-rule agreement.

In response, Rabin has vowed that Israeli forces will continue to target Arab militants bent on undermining the Israeli-PLO agreement. He said that Israel will persist in these actions without coordinating its moves with "anyone."

The issue of the IDF raids was almost certain to be on the agenda of the Cairo meeting.

While maintaining that the actions are necessary for Israel's security, Rabin was likely to promise Arafat to release wanted men who were not directly involved with terrorist activities.

**More Divisions Within Likud**

Arafat, for his part, was expected to demand that Israel not only put an end to its operations against terrorists, but also that the Israeli government release Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the leader of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, who is serving a term of life imprisonment for his involvement in planning terrorist attacks.

The announcement of the meeting triggered angry reactions by Israeli opposition politicians.

Benjamin Netanyahu, chairman of the Likud party, criticized Rabin for giving Arafat the legitimacy of a head of state.

The heads of two other right-wing opposition parties, Rafael Eitan of Tsomet and Rehavam Ze'evi of Moledet, charged that Rabin has lost control of the situation and that Arafat has taken the initiative in the political aftermath of the signing of the self-rule accord.

Within the Likud, there is dissatisfaction

over the party's posture in the weeks since the historic agreement with the PLO was reached.

Hard-liners and moderates are speaking out with increasing vigor on the need for the Likud to offer the public a clear alternative to the government's position.

The Likud leadership, far from united, is pondering which policy-making forum of the party should be convened in order to thrash out the issues.

Zalman Shoval, a former Likud Knesset member and most recently Israel's ambassador to Washington, declared this week that he would submit to the Likud central committee a draft resolution stating explicitly that the party will uphold all international agreements entered into by the present government.

Shoval, who now leads the Likud's international relations department, made the announcement as a way of taking issue with hard-line Likud Knesset member Uzi Landau.

Landau, in public statements made after the Washington handshake, has openly raised the possibility that Rabin's actions and agreements will not be binding on any future Likud-led government.

Shoval's statement has aroused particular interest within his party. It is not entirely a soft-line stand, because Shoval links his party's willingness to abide by the current government's agreements to the condition that Israel retain its security control over the West Bank forever -- even though, as Shoval fully expects, a Palestinian state may eventually arise there.

Shoval argues that the Likud ought to recognize and accept the accord with the PLO as a reality -- but that the party should convince the Israeli public that a Likud-led government should be entrusted with the task of implementing the accord.

While this position is by no means a mainstream sentiment within the party, it has induced lively debate about the need for a Likud platform that takes account of the new realities in the country and the region.

**JORDAN AND PLO CONCLUDE ACCORD  
ON COOPERATION IN THE WEST BANK**

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization have agreed on an economic cooperation pact designed to ensure a Jordanian role in the West Bank economy under Palestinian autonomy.

The accord, which was concluded this week, calls for the Jordanian Central Bank to monitor and regulate the Palestinian monetary policy that will evolve during interim self-rule, which will begin in the West Bank town of Jericho.

The pact was reportedly motivated by Jordanian concerns that Israel would try to exploit the economic benefits of the accord with the PLO at Jordan's expense.

In a related development, a mission from the World Bank is due to arrive in Israel next week to begin planning an economic infrastructure in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the first areas to be given autonomy by the Israelis.

About 25 economic experts are expected to

lay the groundwork for the investment of the \$2.4 billion the World Bank has estimated is needed over the next five years in the areas.

The economic specialists are also planning to provide emergency and technical assistance, including helping to set up a tax-collection system, and begin what the Bank of Israel called "pre-feasibility" studies of various economic projects that have been proposed.

The international economists will have to prepare the economic infrastructure to create a climate that is favorable for the private sector, "on whose shoulders the Palestinian economy will ride," said Yoav Lehman, spokesman for the Bank of Israel.

"You can't make a factory if there is no road to the factory, or if there is no telecommunications or electricity," said Lehman. "The public investment will be used to create this basic infrastructure."

### A Self-Serving Investment

The World Bank's plan calls for the Palestinians to receive \$400 million in international aid in 1994, \$125 million of which is slated for relief assistance, double the current amount, and \$275 million for public assistance programs.

Over the course of five years, the relief assistance will drop to average \$50 million a year, while public investment will increase to an average \$475 million a year.

The World Bank mission comes in the wake of an international conference held Oct. 1 in Washington, at which donor countries pledged more than \$2 billion for Palestinian economic development over the next five years.

Israel has pledged \$25 million to the effort, an action defended this week by Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel at a news conference upon his return from Washington.

The money is not charity but a self-serving investment in an enduring peace, said Frenkel, who cautioned that there are no guarantees the donor countries will honor their pledges.

Nevertheless, Frenkel was unreservedly upbeat about the reaction Israel received at the international meetings he attended in Washington.

"I personally don't remember such a period of great optimism about Israel," he said, noting the enthusiasm was a combined product of the peace agreement and expectations for regional economic prosperity.

Meanwhile, PLO economists have prepared their own 1,600-page economic development plan for Gaza and Jericho, which will form the basis of the technical negotiations with the Israelis scheduled to begin later this month on the transfer of authority to the Palestinians.

### **UJA CONFERENCE BREAKS A TABOO BY INVITING SENIOR PLO OFFICIAL**

By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- In a sign of mounting support among American Jews for the accord Israel recently signed with the Palestine Liberation Organization, a senior PLO official was invited to address a United Jewish Appeal conference here this week.

Nabil Sha'ath, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, appeared on a panel of Middle East experts Tuesday during the UJA Women's Division's Lion of Judah conference here.

It was believed to be the first time a PLO official addressed a major Jewish gathering.

The late addition of Sha'ath to the panel discussion was overshadowed only by an address Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan gave Monday to the 1,100 delegates attending the Lion of Judah conference.

While many Jewish groups have enthusiastically embraced the historic accord signed by Israel and the PLO on the White House lawn last month, few have been emboldened to meet publicly with PLO officials.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has recommended that its 50 constituent agencies not take part in such meetings at this time.

It was therefore considered surprising that an organization with as cautious and stodgy a reputation as UJA's should be the one to break new ground.

The animated Sha'ath did not use the congenial surroundings of his UJA appearance, however, to shy away from controversy, as he addressed head-on the question of Jerusalem.

Palestinians will continue to press the Israeli government for a piece of Jerusalem, he said in a remark that drew moans and even shouts from the audience.

He added: "Israel cannot deny the Palestinian people the importance of their Jerusalem."

### Backs Palestinian State

The accord signed at the White House last month requires negotiations on the status of Jerusalem to begin by December 1996. But Israel has made clear that Jerusalem is indivisible and will remain its capital for ever.

In another controversial remark, Sha'ath said the formation of a separate Palestinian state is unavoidable.

After Israeli forces leave the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, "Palestinians should not be told what to do with the land," he said.

Sha'ath said that Palestinians should be free to do what they want with the land, including forming their own state, as long as they live in peace and as good neighbors with Israel.

But the majority of Sha'ath's remarks during the panel discussion were well-received by the attentive crowd.

"We have not had enough of Israel, only of Israel as occupiers," said Sha'ath, speaking for Palestinians living in the region.

He went on to emphasize that Israelis and Palestinians must cooperate in economic matters, including trade and tourism.

Sha'ath also praised the U.S. role in the accord's success, noting that President Clinton stepped back from the peace process to allow the agreement to be formed and then "swung around after the signing to give it his full support."

Others participating in the panel discussion were Haim Shaked, director of Middle East studies at the University of Miami; Steven Spiegel, professor of political science at UCLA; and Marshall Breger, an official in the Reagan White House.

Afterward, Israel's ambassador to Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, outlined Israeli goals in the Middle East peace process.

First, he said, Israeli officials desire the successful implementation of the accord. Second, the process of acceptance must be expanded, including an end to the Arab economic boycott and recognition of Israel by Arab countries. Third, the Israeli public must be given confidence that the agreement will succeed.

## U.S. ORTHODOX RABBIS WARN ISRAEL ABOUT DANGERS OF ACCORD WITH PLO

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- A delegation of leading Orthodox rabbis from the United States traveled to Israel this week to warn against the dangers of the accord with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Leading a so-called "emergency mission" was Rabbi Aaron Soloveitchik, a senior member of Yeshiva University's Talmud faculty who in a private meeting Tuesday tried to convince Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that the current peace process is plagued with peril.

"He didn't persuade me, nor did I persuade him," the rabbi, who uses a wheelchair, said at a news conference the delegation called following the meeting.

The session with Rabin occurred the day before the prime minister was scheduled to meet in Cairo with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Soloveitchik said Jews everywhere have a tie to the land of Israel and an obligation to speak up when it is in danger.

He said he told Rabin that all those who have remained silent and allowed the agreement with the PLO to unfold will have the blood of their brothers on their hands because of the Jewish victims of PLO terrorism.

Soloveitchik said he would urge the settlers in the territories to resort to passive resistance in the face of the accord but to eschew violence.

The rabbis said they came to Israel to express not only their own outrage over the accord but that of their constituents in America.

According to a survey conducted last month by the American Jewish Committee, only 51 percent of Orthodox Jews support the general outlines of the Israel-PLO accord, as opposed to 74 percent of the American Jewish community as a whole.

### 'Everyone Wants Peace,' But 'Is This Peace?'

"Everyone wants peace," said Rabbi Max Schreier of Brooklyn, a past president of the Rabbinical Council of America. "The question is, is this peace?"

He said opposition to the agreement was shared by most "Torah leaders" in the United States.

Both the Rabbinical Council and the National Council of Young Israel have expressed opposition to the Israel-PLO accord. The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America has not taken a position on it.

"We are concerned about the (peace) process because it was unnecessarily hurried," said Rabbi David Algazi of Queens.

"It doesn't take into account the worries of the Jewish community here and abroad," he said.

Algazi said he understands that Israelis are tired of a constant state of war. But he said that is all the more reason for outsiders with a clear head to step in and sound a warning.

"We can see things more objectively," he said.

Rabbi Jay Marcus, spiritual leader of Young Israel of Staten Island, decried what he called the Israeli government's efforts to "disparage and delegitimize" the settlers, whom the rabbis described as depressed and discouraged.

He called it a "terrible failure of leadership" and pledged that "we will assume responsibility for appeals for money from the territories."

## FEDERAL JUDGE STRIKES DOWN BALTIMORE KOSHER FOOD LAW

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- In a decision that may impact government enforcement of kosher food practices in the United States, a federal judge has struck down Baltimore's kosher food ordinance, calling it an unconstitutional entanglement of church and state.

The decision may affect similar laws in the 15 to 20 states and the handful of counties and municipalities where they exist.

Although the New Jersey State Supreme Court in 1992 struck down that state's kosher food laws as unconstitutional, this is the first time a federal court has ruled against legal enforcement of Jewish dietary laws by government agencies.

In New Jersey, the regulations have been rewritten to conform with the court's decision.

In the Baltimore ruling, however, the city's Bureau of Kosher Meat and Food Control has been outlawed.

In his Oct. 1 ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Benson Legg called the Baltimore ordinance's purpose of protecting consumers from kosher food fraud "commendable," but said that "its primary defect is that it excessively entangles civil and religious authority."

In response, Baltimore's chief lawyer said the city plans to appeal it to the Supreme Court, if necessary. "We feel very strongly that our kosher food law is constitutional," Baltimore City Solicitor Neal Janey told The Washington Post.

### Agencies Seek To 'Protect The Consumer'

"Judges are just uncomfortable with the state being involved with anything smacking of religion," said Dennis Rapps, executive director of COLPA, the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, which represents Orthodox Jews on church-state matters.

Consumers suffer "because they're being defrauded" while the government is not able to ensure that they are really getting kosher food, he said.

A representative of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, which certifies kosher products, said, "All these enforcement agencies seek to do is to protect the consumer" from fraud.

In his decision, Legg wrote that the doctrine separating church and state outweighs consumer protection interests in the Baltimore case, according to The Washington Post.

Legg singled out as problematic the city's employment of a battery of rabbis. But he ruled that the city can legally continue the enforcement of kosher food standards by not using them as its experts.

Efforts were made by COLPA to have the New Jersey case reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court, which denied the petition.

In New Jersey, new regulations are set to go into effect any day, said Yakov Dombroff, chief of the state's Bureau of Kosher Enforcement. They will require retailers of kosher food to post detailed information about what is involved in ensuring that their food is kosher.

If the N.J. Bureau of Kosher Enforcement finds that products are not as kosher as the retailer says they are, the retailer can be prosecuted for fraud, said Dombroff. "We won't be making any religious decisions," he said.

## JUSTICE GINSBURG TAKES HER SEAT AS SUPREME COURT OPENS NEW TERM

By Deborah Kalb and Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the first Jew to sit on the Supreme Court in 25 years, donned her black robe and took her seat among her new colleagues this week as the court began its 1993-1994 term.

The court's agenda for the term, at least so far, does not include any church-state cases, which are traditionally those in which the organized Jewish community becomes most involved.

But Jewish groups have filed briefs in a range of cases that Ginsburg and the eight other justices have agreed to hear, including those concerning voting rights, civil rights and women's rights.

Court-watchers are predicting that Ginsburg, with her background as a pioneering women's rights advocate, will play an important role in the cases focusing on issues of concern to women.

Ginsburg is the first Jewish woman ever to serve on the court, and this term marks another historic milestone: It is the first time there have ever been two women sitting on the court.

One of the women's rights cases in which Jewish groups have gotten involved is National Organization for Women vs. Scheidler.

The American Jewish Committee is among the organizations that have filed briefs asking the court to allow racketeering statutes to be used to stop organizations such as the militant anti-abortion group Operation Rescue from trying to block abortion clinics.

Jewish groups are also involved in a case asking whether plaintiffs claiming sexual harassment must prove severe psychological injury to make their case.

The term opened Monday, and on that first day, the court heard oral arguments in a set of Florida voting rights cases that concern some in the Jewish community.

Ginsburg jumped right into the questioning, in contrast to many previous rookie justices who shied away from making their presence felt in their first days on the court.

The American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League were among the groups filing briefs in the cases, Johnson vs. De Grandy and De Grandy vs. Johnson, which involve minority challenges to voting districts in the Florida state Legislature.

Many in the Jewish community, which is traditionally opposed to arguing cases on the basis of "group rights," have been critical of redistricting plans drawn specifically to create minority districts.

### Jews Interested In Civil Rights Cases

The question in these cases involves plans to create black and Hispanic districts in southern Florida. The Jewish groups' briefs stress their view that redistricting should not be undertaken on the basis of race.

Also of special interest to Jewish groups are cases on this term's docket dealing with the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

Jewish groups are among those asking whether the civil rights law can be applied retroactively to cases pending at the time the act was passed.

While there is a dearth of church-state cases so far this term, the court did take action on a few Monday.

In one case, it let stand a lower court decision allowing the Texas attorney general to try to obtain the records of a controversial church and its televangelist leader, Robert Tilton.

The Word of Faith Family Church had argued that the investigation would violate the church's constitutional guarantees of religious freedom.

In another case, Renton School District 403 vs. Garnett, the court let stand a lower court ruling allowing students at a public high school in Washington state to form a religion club that would meet and hold prayer and Bible study.

School officials, backed by groups including the local AJCommittee chapter, had argued that recognizing such a club would violate church-state separation provisions of Washington state law.

But the Washington state provisions clashed with, and were found to be subordinate to, federal law requiring equal access for religious groups.

Another church-state case that could come before the court this term is one involving a Hasidic school district in New York state.

The case, Grumet vs. Board of Education of the Kiryas Joel School District, asks whether a special public school district set up for handicapped Hasidic children violates the constitutional separation of church and state.

The New York state Court of Appeals ruled in July that the district "inescapably conveys a message of governmental endorsement of religion."

Ginsburg, a former appeals court judge here in Washington, did not handle many church-state cases on the appeals court.

But many in the Jewish community expect she will be more in line with their views on the issue than was her Supreme Court predecessor, Justice Byron White. Jewish groups often clashed with White over his position on church-state cases.

Ginsburg follows in the footsteps of a string of Jewish justices who filled a so-called "Jewish seat" on the high court from 1916 to 1969. They included Justices Louis Brandeis, Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter, Arthur Goldberg and Abe Fortas.

## ISRAEL FIRMS TIES WITH TURKMENISTAN

By Larry Yudelson

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 5 (JTA) -- Israel has established diplomatic relations with Turkmenistan, meaning that it now has ties with all of the five Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union and all 15 of the Soviet successor states.

A joint communique formalizing the ties was signed Monday by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Boris Shihmuradov, deputy head of Turkmenistan's Cabinet of Ministers.

Monday's signing has an even more far-reaching import. Reversing decades of Soviet-orchestrated isolation of Israel within the world community, Israel now has diplomatic ties with 131 of the 185 United Nations member nations.

In previous ceremonies this week and last, Peres formalized relations with the Asian nation of Cambodia and the African nations of Gabon, Burkina Faso and Mauritius.

He met last week with Foreign Minister Ahmad Swalay Kasenally of the island republic of Mauritius and with Foreign Minister Pascaline Mserri Bongo of the republic of Gabon.

This week, Peres attended signing ceremonies with Prince Sirivudh of Cambodia and with Foreign Minister Thomas Sanon of Burkina Faso.