

**ISRAELI, PLO OFFICIALS AGREE
ON STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ACCORD****By Gil Sedan**

JERUSALEM, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- A month after the Israelis and Palestine Liberation Organization signed their historic accord for Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, leaders of the formerly bitter adversaries held meetings to get to the nitty-gritty of the agreement.

Israeli and PLO leaders reached agreement on several immediate procedures to begin implementing the Palestinian self-rule accord signed by both parties Sept. 13 in Washington.

One of the most contentious issues, the border of Jericho and the area over which the Palestinians will have dominion, is on the agenda for a future meeting.

A liaison committee met Wednesday in Cairo, attended by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid of Israel.

Representing the Palestinians was Mahmoud Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, who played a key role behind the scenes in the secret negotiations held earlier this year in Oslo, Norway, which led to the self-rule agreement.

As the liaison committee opened its session, Peres said it would deal with "principles, not with details."

Following the meeting, Peres, asked by reporters if the Israeli army would withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho by Dec. 13, as stipulated in the accord, gave an emphatic "yes."

In fact, he said, "If possible, we shall try to do it earlier."

As the liaison committee was convening in Cairo, other Israeli and PLO negotiators were meeting in the Sinai border town of Taba to discuss details for implementing the accord.

Meanwhile, discord within the PLO about the agreement was officially dispelled.

At a two-day PLO meeting in Tunis, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat fully took the reigns of negotiations with Israel by placing men loyal to him at the helm of key committees and purging opponents from the PLO.

Joint Economic Panel Urged

In a strong move, Arafat barred from Tunisia several PLO officials who opposed the accord signed with Israel.

A two-day meeting of the PLO Central Council ended Tuesday with a unanimous endorsement of Arafat as executor of the negotiations with Israel.

In Cairo, the liaison committee, which has the task of overseeing all general arrangements for implementing the accord, agreed that it would hold its meetings in Cairo every two to three weeks.

The committee further agreed to establish subcommittees to deal with specific issues as they arise.

In line with this thinking, the liaison committee called for the immediate establishment of an Israeli-Palestinian economic cooperation committee.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat would lead the Israeli team and Abu Alaa, the head of the

PLO's economic department, was likely to represent the Palestinians.

The liaison committee also agreed that the Taba committee was to proceed with its work without interruption.

In Taba, the Israeli delegation was headed by Maj. Gen. Amnon Shahak, Israel Defense Force deputy chief of staff.

Leading the Palestinian delegation was Nabil Sha'ath, a senior Arafat adviser who is the PLO's representative in Cairo.

Boundaries Of Jericho Discussed

Among the major issues discussed at the talks in Taba were the precise borders of the West Bank city of Jericho, which will fall under Palestinian self-rule.

The Palestinians are demanding that their domain extend over the entire Jericho region, while Israel is insisting on limiting the area to Jericho's city borders.

A member of the Palestinian delegation referred to this as the most troubling problem on the agenda of the Taba talks.

The group was also to discuss how Palestinians will be able to travel between Gaza and Jericho.

The Palestinians want to create a corridor between the two autonomous entities. Israel insists on granting special permits for travel on Israeli roads between the two regions.

A third topic to be discussed will be control of the border points between Jericho and Jordan, and between the Gaza town of Rafah and Egypt.

Fourth, the Taba group will discuss who will control water resources in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Fifth, the negotiating teams will agree on the terms and conditions of Israel Defense Force movements in the two areas after the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

According to the terms of the self-rule accord, the withdrawal must be completed no later than April 13, 1994.

Issues that cannot be resolved in Taba will be referred to the liaison committee that meets in Cairo.

DEBATE ERUPTS OVER STATUS**OF JEWS LEAVING FORMER USSR****By Larry Yudelson**

NEW YORK, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- Should a third of the American refugee quota be devoted to Jews from the former Soviet Union?

That question has been raised anew, and effectively answered "no," by the president of the American Zionist Movement, Seymour Reich.

His view has revived a long-running battle that pits the Zionist principle of Jewish immigration to Israel against the feeling of American Jews that they have no right to deny to Russians the haven their own grandparents found on American shores.

The issue was raised last month by Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) in a Senate hearing on immigration and refugee affairs.

At the hearing, Secretary of State Warren Christopher noted the need to "bring the Soviet refugee admissions program into conformity with

emerging realities in the former Soviet Union," according to a summary of the hearing prepared by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Reich, in a statement last week, called for a re-evaluation of the refugee quota, declaring that "Russian Jews are taking places that might otherwise go to Bosnian victims of 'ethnic cleansing' and other deserving refugees in flight from persecution."

Reich's argument was hotly criticized as irresponsible and wrong by the Jewish organizations that resettle the roughly 40,000 Jewish immigrants who arrive in America annually.

"According to U.S. refugee policy, a reduction in the number of Jews to the U.S. in no way guarantees an increase in the number of admissions of any other refugee population," said a statement issued jointly by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, the Council of Jewish Federations and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Further, activity on behalf of Jews from the former Soviet Union has helped other refugees, according to Gary Rubin, outgoing director of national affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

"Jewish support has been a vital part of a coalition that has succeeded in bringing Asian and African and other refugees to the United States," Rubin said. "Were the Jewish slice to drop out, there would be a weakening of the overall coalition."

Jews No Longer Victims?

Additionally, according to Martin Wenick, president of HIAS, the Jewish community last year showed "some flexibility" and agreed to give up some slots to be used by refugees from war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

But those refugees never arrived.

Reich's statement, and the rejoinder to it, dealt at length with the changing situation in the former Soviet Union.

Reich, referring to Boris Yeltsin's victory over the rejectionist Parliament, argued that "the Jews of Russia can no longer claim to be victims of government persecution who automatically deserve the status of refugees for entry into the United States."

CJF, HIAS and the National Conference retorted that "recent events in Moscow signal a new phase of political and social volatility and that this is not a time to dismiss the ongoing crisis in the region in the name of 'Yeltsin's victory.'"

In calling for a re-evaluation of resettlement policies, Reich has reopened a debate that has arisen periodically since Jews first began to leave the Soviet Union in the 1970s: Should Jews, who have the right to automatic citizenship in Israel, be considered stateless refugees?

If Russian Jews "feel they must leave, they have a land to go to that will immediately accept them and make them citizens on the day they enter" Israel, Reich said in his statement.

But the Soviet Jewry advocacy and resettlement groups retorted that "the safety of Jews in the former Soviet Union deserves an assessment that is independent of beliefs of where they should resettle."

"CJF and HIAS support a policy of resettlement that is based on a conclusion that there is ample reason for Jews, in particular, to leave the former Soviet Union for Israel and for some to enter the U.S. as refugees," the joint statement read.

Under American law, refugees need to show a well-founded fear of persecution.

For Jews and other religious minorities from the former Soviet Union, however, that standard was softened by the Lautenberg Amendment.

The amendment was introduced by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) after the Immigration and Naturalization Service rejected the asylum claims of almost half the Soviet Jews applying in the summer of 1989.

Jewish Continuity Is A Factor

Currently, according to Wenick, there is more than a two-year backlog in admissions, with 100,000 people in the immigration pipeline.

A similar number of Jews are reportedly in the pipeline for immigration to Israel, with 10 times that many having begun the initial step of receiving a letter of invitation from Israel.

According to former CJF Executive Vice President Carmi Schwartz, "the rationale for American resettlement was going to be family reunification; the rationale for Israel would be safe haven and Jewish continuity."

Schwartz, who is now a consultant to CJF, headed the organization through 1989, when mass emigration from the then-Soviet Union was beginning. He noted that most of the refugees coming to America are family reunification cases, a factor not mentioned in the official rejoinder to Reich.

Jewish continuity "is another factor that should be looked at very seriously," Schwartz said, since "the Jewish component of their being is a critical component as to why we care about them."

"Israeli resettlement assures Jewish continuity, while American resettlement is very uncertain as to continuity," said Schwartz.

SEPTEMBER SAW MODEST RISE IN ALIYAH FROM FORMER USSR By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- As Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the renegade Russian Parliament were locked in a turbulent standoff last month, a modest record was being set in 1993's monthly aliyah figures from the former Soviet Union.

September saw the arrival in Israel of 6,207 new immigrants from Russia and the other former Soviet republics, bringing the total so far this year to 47,201.

The September figures only slightly exceed those of August (6,113) and of March (6,120), which was also a time of great friction between Yeltsin and Parliament.

Most of the emigrants from the former Soviet Union, however, have been leaving the outlying republics torn by ethnic and nationalistic strife.

In the meantime, 2,846 former Soviet Jews immigrated to the United States in September under the auspices of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

That brings the total 1993 immigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union to the United States to 26,462, and for the fiscal year of October 1992 to September 1993 to 36,808.

Martin Wenick, HIAS executive vice president, said the annual American immigration quota of 40,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union was "basically filled," as a couple of thousand former Soviet Jews entered the United States under the sponsorship of other groups.

JEWISH GROUPS TAKE SIDES IN TWO SUPREME COURT CASES

By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- Jewish groups are closely watching two cases argued before the Supreme Court this week: one involving civil rights and the other dealing with sexual harassment in the workplace.

Oral argument for the two cases was heard Wednesday in a Supreme Court building packed with members of the public and press, who were interested as much in how Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg would perform during her second week on the bench as in the cases themselves.

The court began its new term last week with the addition of Ginsburg, who replaces retired Justice Byron White.

The civil rights case, *Landgraf vs. USI Film*, asks whether the Civil Rights Act of 1991 applies to cases pending when the law took effect.

Jewish groups, which have long supported civil rights legislation, are siding with the plaintiffs in such pending cases. They argue that the act should apply to them, since it amends previous law by giving them the right to a jury trial and providing a method by which they can collect damages.

Counter to this theory is the historical preference against retroactivity of such laws, which has decades of precedent in American law.

Eric Schnapper, counsel for Barbara Landgraf, who brought a case against her employer before the enactment of the 1991 law, told the court the law contains no specific provision prohibiting its application to pending cases.

Justice Antonin Scalia challenged his argument with the assertion that "a long tradition of common law" exists disfavoring retroactivity.

Glen Nager, counsel for Roadway Express Inc., Landgraf's employer and the defendant in the case, argued that Congress could not have wanted the act to apply retroactively in the absence of any explicit intent to that effect in the statute's language.

Nager said this case would be easy to decide if such specific language as to Congress' intent existed.

"It skipped their mind," quipped Scalia in response, drawing laughter from onlookers.

Bid To Apply Civil Rights Law Retroactively

Both the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee filed briefs supporting Landgraf's position in the civil rights case.

The line of questioning from the justices Wednesday made the court's final decision "very difficult to predict," said Richard Foltin, legislative director and counsel for AJCommittee in Washington. "The only thing that is clear is that the justices are thinking seriously about the case," he said.

ADL said in a statement that it believes the "statutory language of the act, and the interpretation given to earlier civil rights statutes, demonstrate that the act should be applied retroactively."

Participating with as much vigor as any of the justices was Ginsburg, whose confirmation to the court in August was hailed by Jewish groups.

Ginsburg began her questioning immediately after arguments began in the sexual harassment case, *Harris vs. Forklift Systems Inc.*

That case, considered by some to be the most important First Amendment case in recent

memory, asks if someone accusing her employer of sexual harassment must prove psychological injury.

AJCommittee and American Jewish Congress were among those filing briefs on behalf of the plaintiff. They argued that a lower standard of proof is adequate.

Ginsburg began by asking plaintiff Teresa Harris' attorney to precisely define sexual harassment, suggesting that comments made to different people might offend some but not others.

The comment "You're a woman -- what do you know?" means something different from "You're a man -- what do you know?" said Ginsburg, using a denigrating comment made to Harris by a male co-worker as an example.

"You've never been told, 'You're a man -- what do you know?'" asked Scalia, who jokingly suggested that he must have come from a different family background than the other justices.

Harris' attorney, Irwin Venick, claimed that the only test plaintiffs should have to meet is one asking if an employer's conduct would be considered offensive by a reasonable person.

Stanley Chernau, counsel for Harris' employer, Forklift Systems Inc., argued that something more is required, depending on the facts of each case.

He shied away, however, from asserting that proof of psychological injury be a mandatory component of proving sexual harassment.

Venick was flanked by counsel from the Justice Department, arguing in favor of Harris.

The government took the position that a plaintiff must prove the employer's conduct altered working conditions, thereby making the job more difficult to perform.

It would be a "shock" if the court decided to require proof of psychological injury for plaintiffs to recover, said Foltin of AJCommittee.

He said it is likely the justices will clarify what is required to prove sexual harassment.

The court is expected to hand down its decisions on the two cases early next year.

YESHIVA GEDOLIM BACK POLLARD

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- The leaders of the fervently Orthodox yeshiva world have joined the campaign to free Jonathan Pollard.

The addition of 21 of the most respected roshai yeshiva, or yeshiva deans, to those working for Pollard's release caps what has become an unusually broad religious coalition.

The leadership of the rabbinical organizations and seminary of the Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist and centrist Orthodox movements are already on record as calling for a commutation of the life sentence that the former Navy intelligence analyst received in 1987 for passing secrets to Israel.

In an advertisement appearing in this week's issue of *Yated Ne'eman*, an English-language Orthodox weekly, the yeshiva leaders, who are viewed by their followers as the gedolei hador, or the generation's spiritual leaders, said: "It is a mitzvah incumbent upon each and every Jew to make efforts to free (Pollard) from his imprisonment, by sending letters to the government and to anyone who can intercede on his behalf."

The ad continues: "In the merit of this great mitzvah of pidyon shvuyim (freeing prisoners), may all who participate be blessed with every benefit by the One who frees the imprisoned."

GREEK JEWS HOPE PAPANDREOU IS BETTER SECOND TIME AROUND

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- Andreas Papandreou's surprise return to power as prime minister of Greece has brought back memories within the country's small Jewish population of anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian sentiments that permeated the Socialist leader's earlier regime.

Jews and Israelis are hoping that this time around the Papandreou administration will be more favorable toward Israel and Jews, building on the greatly improved relations forged by the just-ousted regime of Constantine Mitsotakis.

Papandreou's Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement staged a stunning comeback in Sunday's national elections, winning by a 7.5 percent margin over Mitsotakis' liberal New Democracy Party.

The Socialists captured 171 of Parliament's 300 seats, enabling Papandreou to stage a dramatic return to power after corruption charges and scandal drove him from office four years ago.

During his previous term as prime minister, which lasted from 1981 to 1988, Greek Jews believed that his policies were not only anti-Israel but anti-Semitic as well.

He is remembered for freeing several Palestinian terrorists from prison and calling them "freedom-fighters."

His government's attitude last time around was considered ironic.

Most Greek Jews, who number less than 5,000 out of a population of almost 10 million, had thought the Socialists would be favorable to Greek Jews and Israel. Never in the history of Greek politics had a government had so many Jewish connections as that one had.

Papandreou, a world-renowned economist during the 1960s and 1970s, owed a large debt of gratitude to a Jew -- Stanley Sheinbaum, an American economist who saved Papandreou from the junta of the Greek colonels in 1967.

Three other members of Papandreou's former government also had close ties to Jews.

Greece's foreign minister at the time, John Haralambopoulos, had an Israeli son from his first marriage to an Israeli woman.

And Papandreou's spokesman, John Rubatis, was married to an American Jew, as was his finance minister, Gerassimos Arsenis.

'Jewish Connections' Served For Nought

Papandreou's "Jewish connections" went even further, since his father, George, who himself had been a Greek prime minister, had been smuggled to Egypt during the Nazi occupation of Greece by an underground Jewish organization.

Despite all these connections, things did not turn out as Jews had expected.

Jews remember a remark Papandreou made on national television while having Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat standing at his side.

Papandreou had told Arafat that the Israelis "are doing to you what the Nazis did to them."

And of all the foreign policy promises he made at the time, many Greek Jews recall that the only one Papandreou did keep was not recognizing Israel.

Small wonder that the local Jewish community here has taken a wait-and-see attitude toward the Socialists this time around. Most members of the community will admit that inter-

national circumstances have changed, thereby forcing the Socialists to change, too.

Nissim Mais, president of the Central Board of Greek Jews, commenting on the Socialists' return to power, remarked that Jews in Greece and throughout the Diaspora are troubled by "racism and fascism."

The Socialists' position on this, he said, "is well-known."

Most political and diplomatic observers here believe that relations between Greece and Israel will continue to be warm, a relationship that was purposely fostered by Mitsotakis as soon as he came to power.

Almost immediately upon taking the reigns of the government, Mitsotakis created diplomatic relations with Israel, overturning 40 years of very low-level ties between the neighboring countries.

After that, one of the first joint endeavors the two nations embarked upon was a tourism agreement.

In fact, the two countries' tourism ministers will join those of Turkey and Egypt at a meeting next month in London to formally dedicate the Eastern Mediterranean Tourism Association, which is itself a quiet revolution grown out of the new peace.

One political observer here believes that Greek-Israeli relations will not only continue to be good but will improve as a result of the historic accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13 by Israel and the PLO.

On July 23, Papandreou met with Israel's deputy foreign minister, Yossi Beilin.

According to a source at the meeting, Papandreou told Beilin, "Before you say anything, let me tell you this: In the '80s, my interests were with the Arabs, so I supported them. In the '90s my interests are with Israel. That is why I will support you."

The Jewish community here is hoping the new prime minister will live up to his word.

SHAS LEADER DERI INDICTED ON BRIBERY, FRAUD CHARGES

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Oct. 13 (JTA) -- The leader of the Shas party has been formally indicted on charges of receiving bribes, fraud, falsification of corporate documents and violating the public trust.

The indictment against Aryeh Deri, a Knesset member and former interior minister, was handed down Wednesday in Jerusalem's District Court -- a day after the Knesset voted overwhelmingly to lift the Orthodox Shas party leader's parliamentary immunity so that he could face trial. Deri had sought the removal of his immunity because he said it was the only way he could prove his innocence.

He contends that he has already been convicted in the court of public opinion. He also has said that he is the victim of persecution for his religious beliefs and his Sephardic background.

The indictment lists 203 prosecution witnesses, including former ministers and current Knesset members. It reportedly contains some 60,000 pages of evidence against Deri.

The date of the trial and the number of judges who will hear the case remain to be determined.

Deri and his attorney are expected to ask for a long delay so they can study the prosecution's evidence.