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**AFTER ELECTIONS IN JORDAN,
PEACE WITH ISRAEL SEEMS NEAR**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- A breakthrough in the peace talks between Israel and Jordan will soon occur, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has told reporters here.

Peres, who has not denied reports that he met at length with King Hussein of Jordan in Amman last week, offered the prediction Tuesday as the results began coming in from Jordan's parliamentary elections, which were held Monday.

Islamic fundamentalists, who oppose the Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, lost ground.

The fundamentalists, who had 22 seats in the lower house of the Jordanian Parliament, lost six seats in the elections, thereby dashing their hopes for gaining a majority.

The voting was for the 80 seats in the lower house. The 40 members of the upper house are appointed by Hussein.

Israeli and Arab observers consider the voting results a shot in the arm for the peace process in general, and for the prospects of Israeli-Jordanian progress in particular.

While both countries remain cagey, some observers were predicting a "summit" among President Clinton, Rabin and Hussein in Washington over the weekend.

The Israeli leader is due at the White House on Friday -- the same time Hussein is flying to the United States for medical tests.

Hussein, in a post-election news conference in Amman on Tuesday, said he was enormously "pleased and proud" of the election results.

He said they reflected "a growing sense of responsibility which satisfies me no end and fills me with pride."

The monarch said the peace process, which had "started with the last parliament, will continue hopefully with this parliament."

"I hope all will cooperate to achieve the best results," he said. "My commitment is for peace."

'Encouraging' Election Results

A spokesman for the Islamic fundamentalist party in Jordan, meanwhile, vowed its continued rejection of "the Zionist conquest."

Israel Radio said Tuesday that there had been meetings between Israeli and Jordanian officials subsequent to the Hussein-Peres session last week and that they had achieved an "agreement in principle" to hold a summit.

In Brussels, where he was making his first official visit to European Community headquarters, Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat said he expected Israel and Jordan to sign a treaty of friendship within a few days.

Peres, briefing the visiting King Juan Carlos of Spain on the unfolding peace process, described the election results in Jordan as "encouraging."

Juan Carlos was on a three-day visit to Israel, the first ever by a ruling European monarch, to sign joint Israeli-Spanish economic agreements and ease the strains that have marred relations between the two countries in the past.

Peres stressed the importance the Israeli government attaches to an agreement with Jordan.

He said an Israeli-Jordanian agreement, along with the self-rule accord Israel has signed with the PLO, would lay the foundations for vibrant economic cooperation in the region.

Peres has been calling for the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, arguing that a long-term understanding between the two parties is the key to stability in the region.

Israel and Jordan signed an agenda for establishing the framework for a future treaty in Washington on Sept. 14, the day after Israel and the PLO signed their historic accord.

Israeli officials said at the time that the agenda signed with Jordan was a more substantive document, not just a procedural outline, because it contained all the elements of a peace treaty.

Many Israeli observers have feared, however, that Hussein would not be prepared to advance to a peace treaty with Israel as long as no substantial progress was made on the Israeli-Syrian track, which has been stalled for months.

But last week's lengthy session with Peres is believed to have allayed at least some of his doubts about signing an agreement with Israel.

NEWS ANALYSIS:**RABIN'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON
SEEN TO OFFER POLITICAL BOOST**

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will receive a temporary domestic political boost as he visits the capital this week, but no one here is expecting this visit to pack the dramatic punch of his last appearance in Washington.

That groundbreaking handshake on the White House lawn Sept. 13 between Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat set off a political earthquake that is still reverberating through the Middle East.

While a breakthrough with Jordan seems near, most sources here see the prime minister's trip primarily as routine, rather than dramatic.

To begin with, this visit, which starts Thursday, is Rabin's third trip to Washington in less than a year.

In addition, the Rabin government and the Clinton administration have forged what many observers here see as the closest relations between the United States and Israel in years.

Finally, as the Middle East peace process is now beginning to bear fruit, some here see visits and meetings -- and even announcements of breakthroughs -- among the various leaders as a growing component of the process.

Still, the visit, which includes a meeting Friday between President Clinton and Rabin, is expected to be a bright spot for both leaders.

Rabin has been buffeted in recent days by electoral defeats for his Labor Party, especially by Teddy Kollek's loss in his bid to remain mayor of Jerusalem. The prime minister also has been hurt by continued violence and protests in Israel in the wake of the Israeli-PLO accord.

And Clinton, who is struggling with foreign policy crises from Bosnia to Somalia to Haiti, can point to the Middle East as one area where things are heading in the right direction.

Analysts here predict that discussions be-

tween the two leaders will focus specifically on the implementation of the Israeli-PLO accord, and will also deal with the other negotiating tracks between Israel and Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The Americans have served as arbiters on past Israeli-Arab accords, and although much of the Israeli-PLO accord was worked out secretly in Norway, the Clinton administration has been deeply involved in promoting the peace process.

No Push From The U.S.

Many see progress on the Syrian track as crucial to the success of a future "comprehensive" settlement, but the sense is that the U.S. administration will not push Rabin to move more quickly on the Syrian track than he wants.

Rabin is concerned that simultaneous progress and land-for-peace deals with both Syria and the Palestinians could overload the Israeli public.

In addition, sources here assume that Rabin will emerge from the visit with some further demonstrations of American support relating to Israeli security that will enable him to return home better able to answer critics of the peace process.

Overall, a sense of relief seems to permeate much of the American Jewish community here.

After years of holding their breath during often-tense encounters between former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Bush administration, many Jewish leaders here have been able to relax a little because of the good rapport between Clinton and Rabin.

In addition to the September meeting, the two leaders met here in March.

During his visit, Rabin is also scheduled to meet with Defense Secretary Les Aspin; Gen. John Shalikashvili, the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and members of Congress. He will then address the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in Montreal.

PROGRESS CITED IN SELF-RULE TALKS; VIOLENCE PERSISTS IN THE TERRITORIES By David Landau and Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Progress has been reported in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations for implementing self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho amid reports of persisting violence and unrest in the administered territories.

Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organization officials reported Tuesday that they had achieved "progress on several issues" at the end of two days of what they described as "intensive talks" in Cairo.

In a brief joint statement, the two delegations said they had decided to meet again next week, but they did not say where. Nor did they reveal the specific nature of what they had achieved this week.

The secretive attitude was not unintentional.

The talks this week were conducted at an undisclosed site in the Egyptian capital with the specific intention of avoiding media coverage.

The closed-mouthed tactic was decided upon after the previous round of talks broke down last week at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba.

The Palestinians suspended last week's round of talks when they rejected Israel's proposed troop withdrawals from Gaza as falling far short of their expectations.

The crisis was resolved following the inter-

vention of Egyptian Foreign Minister Amre Mousa, who briefly visited Israel last week and met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The Israeli and Palestinian delegations made a point of thanking Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for hosting this week's round of talks.

The self-rule accord signed by Israel and the PLO in Washington on Sept. 13 requires that the two parties reach a detailed agreement for Palestinian control of Gaza and Jericho by Dec. 13, when Israel is scheduled to begin removing its troops from the two regions.

But the continuing violence in the territories has left Israeli settlers in both areas fearing for their future.

On Tuesday, an Israeli Arab was killed in Gaza City during an attack by Arab terrorists who had commandeered a truck and smashed into his car.

The 38-year-old Bedouin from the Negev died instantly after his car was rammed into by three masked men who fled the scene, prompting a widespread hunt by security forces.

For the third day in a row, Jewish settlers blocked roads in the territories Tuesday and stoned Arab cars, protesting recent terrorist attacks on Israelis.

Arafat Lashes Out At Syria

Rabin met Tuesday with representatives of Jewish settlers groups.

Israeli settlers have been engaged in violent demonstrations during the past two weeks to protest what they see as a failure by the government to protect them against terrorist attacks.

The prime minister, in turn, has had harsh words for the settlers, accusing them of trying to foil the peace process.

He infuriated them recently when he appeared to equate their protests with Arab terrorist acts. Rabin subsequently stated that he did see a distinction.

The settlers' leaders briefed the prime minister on their security concerns and reached an agreement to establish a committee to mediate between them and the government.

Rabin agreed to meet at a site in the territories with a larger group of representatives when he returns from his visit to the United States, scheduled for later this week.

In Brussels for his first official meeting at European Community headquarters and for a speech before the Belgian Parliament, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat lashed out at Syria for giving a free hand to those opposed to the peace accord.

Arafat told the parliament that Syrian President Hafez Assad "is not against the (self-rule) agreement and not with the agreement. But at the same time he's giving a free hand to the opposition."

While in Brussels, Arafat told a gathering of Belgian businesspersons that the territories would need more than \$13 billion for development and another \$10 billion in foreign investment during the next seven years.

Eiso Woltjer, a member of the European Parliament, said during a radio interview Tuesday that prior to giving aid to the territories, the E.C. should ascertain that the funds will directly benefit the Palestinian population and not be spent on prestigious large-scale projects, such as the construction of airfields and harbors.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Henriette Boas in Amsterdam.)

SPANISH KING, IN FIRST VISIT TO ISRAEL, PRAISES COUNTRY'S PEACE BREAKTHROUGH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- In what was perhaps the highlight of his three-day visit to Israel, King Juan Carlos of Spain addressed the Knesset this week, making what observers here described as an outspoken political speech.

In his Knesset speech Tuesday, Juan Carlos, who is on his first trip to Israel, congratulated the country on its breakthrough toward peace with the Palestinians.

He recalled that the "first step" had been taken in his own capital in November 1991.

The framework for negotiations established during the Madrid conference has served as the basis of the peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbors ever since.

Juan Carlos addressed a special session of the Knesset as his queen, Sofia, watched from the distinguished visitors gallery.

The king arrived here Monday to sign joint Israeli-Spanish economic agreements and ease strains that have marred relations in the past.

Spain, which had strong ties with Arab countries, established diplomatic relations with Israel in January 1986, under considerable secrecy.

When former Israeli President Chaim Herzog visited Spain last year, the king expressed interest in visiting Israel.

During his Knesset speech, Juan Carlos stated his country's support for Palestinian self-determination and for the right of all states to live in secure and recognized boundaries.

He urged the parties of the Middle East to press ahead with their peace negotiations, promising Spain's and Europe's earnest support.

Juan Carlos also mentioned the need for establishing confidence-building measures to ensure the success of the negotiations.

A Final Act Of Reconciliation

The king dwelt at length on Jewish history's "Golden Age of Spain," mentioning Maimonides, Rabbi Yehuda Halevi and other luminaries who had enriched both Jewish and Spanish culture.

He dwelt less on the darker episodes of Spain's history, particularly the 1492 expulsion of the Jews and the Spanish Inquisition.

But it was clear from what he did say, and from the public interest in both countries surrounding his first visit to Israel, that the king and queen's presence here is widely seen as a final act of Spanish reconciliation with Jewry and Judaism.

His visit occurred just a year after both Israel and Spain, in their own ways, marked the 500th anniversary of the expulsion.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in his address to the Knesset, also praised Spain's role in hosting the Madrid conference.

Rabin said he wanted to see Spain serve as "a bridge" between Israel and the Arabs.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of the Likud party, said, "While then the king of Spain issued the command of expulsion, now his successor comes with a command of reconciliation."

Earlier, Juan Carlos, his foreign minister and other aides met with Palestinian leaders at the Spanish Consulate in eastern Jerusalem.

The Palestinians were scheduled to hold further talks Wednesday with Foreign Minister Javier Solana Madariaga on Spain's economic aid plans for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Solana told reporters that his country's pledge of \$10 million a year over the next five years was over and above the major aid and investment package that Spain had put together in cooperation with the European Community.

For the local media, the royal visit prompted some adjustments. Israeli reporters, accustomed to extreme informality, were urged by government press aides to wear jackets and ties.

Unschooling in royal protocol, they were informed that jabbing microphones under the noses of royalty is not considered appropriate and that their majesties were not to be photographed while they were partaking of food or drink.

HUNDREDS CONVERGE ON CAPITAL TO LOBBY FOR POLLARD'S RELEASE

By Deborah Kalb and Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Hundreds of supporters of Jonathan Pollard descended on Washington this week to urge the Clinton administration to commute Pollard's life sentence for spying for Israel.

In an event dubbed International Jonathan Pollard Lobby Day, about 500 Pollard supporters held meetings Tuesday with members of Congress and the Israeli ambassador, Itamar Rabinovich, in a high-profile effort to free the former civilian Navy intelligence analyst.

At an emotional news conference on Capitol Hill, organizers termed the event a success.

Speakers, including several members of Congress, encouraged Pollard's supporters to keep pushing for his release.

"Continue to do what you're doing," Rep. Peter Deutsch (D-Fla.) told the Pollard supporters.

Since Pollard's 1986 conviction for espionage, the American Jewish community has been sharply split over his controversial case.

While some in the Jewish community have refrained from taking a position on the Pollard issue or have not supported him, increasing numbers of groups have been vocally backing him.

Pollard's sister, Carol, said 220 Jewish groups supporting a commutation of his sentence.

His supporters charge that Pollard's sentence is excessive, and have filed a petition asking the administration to review the case and grant Pollard clemency.

The Justice Department is expected to forward the petition to the White House within four to five weeks, sources said.

"I do believe that in the end, justice will be done," Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) said.

Pollard's supporters argue that spies for other countries more hostile to U.S. interests received lesser sentences than Pollard, who is now in the eighth year of a life sentence.

Pollard, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit espionage, is currently in a medium-security prison in Buttner, N.C.

Pollard "was arrested as an American" but "sentenced as a Jew," said Rabbi Avi Weiss at the news conference.

Also Tuesday, the American Zionist Movement ran a full-page ad in The New York Times urging clemency for Pollard.

The group's president, Seymour Reich, said in an interview that he hoped Pollard's sentence would be commuted "before the end of the year."

Tuesday's events were sponsored by the Vancouver, British Columbia, chapter of Citizens for Justice for Jonathan Pollard; and the Coalition for Jewish Concerns-Amcha, based in New York.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

FIRST UJA MISSION TO GERMANY BREAKS DOWNS EMOTIONAL WALLS

By Larry Yudelson

BERLIN (JTA) -- Fifty-five years after Kristallnacht prompted the formation of the United Jewish Appeal, the organization made its first major journey to the cradle of the Holocaust.

In a visit challenging long-standing taboos, a 320-person UJA mission traveled here last month to see modern Germany and its Jewish community, and to lodge a protest against the xenophobic violence that has sprung up in the wake of Germany's reunification.

For many of the mission's participants, the 36 hours in Berlin forced a re-examination of their prejudices toward the German people and toward a Jewish community here that has no intentions of withering away.

"I came away with a lot of questions, a lot of things I need to sort through," said Roberta Holland, chair of the 17th annual President's Mission. "I'm not sure I'll ever arrive at the answers."

Small groups from UJA have come here before. But efforts to arrange a full-blown trip always fell flat.

Even this time, many in the UJA leadership feared that an itinerary that included Berlin would scare people away.

In fact, the President's Mission was a success. At its conclusion in Israel, the group -- which, including those who did not go to Berlin, totaled nearly 700 -- pledged more than \$15 million to the UJA.

But in advance, many people were hesitant to go at all, reflecting an almost instinctual communal revulsion of and anger at Germany, which is commonly reflected in many Jews' refusal to buy German products.

Lewis Norry, chair of an expanded four-day mission of the UJA Young Leadership, was one of those who "had mixed feelings about dropping a lot of hard-earned American dollars here and tacitly giving support to German society."

To 'Make A Statement Against Racism'

But nonetheless, he and the others went.

In part, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of the city gave a cachet of history -- both exciting and worrisome -- to the city.

And, in part, it was the resurgence of anti-foreigner violence, with all the horrible memories that invokes for Jews, that overcame the initial reluctance of many on the mission.

"The role of the mission was not to visit Germany. It was to come and make a statement against racism. Nobody did that 56 years ago," said Nechemia Dagan, director of overseas programs at UJA, who was a strong proponent of the German visit.

At a news conference well-attended by the local media, UJA National Chairman Joel Tauber said, "We want the German people to know (the racist violence) is of great concern. We want to make sure the continuing Jewish community is treated with respect.

"We want the German people to understand we consider ourselves one people," he said.

During their 36-hour stay in Berlin, mission participants visited the Jewish cemetery; the 1866 New Synagogue, which had its sanctuary desecrated by the Nazis and torn down by the Communists and is now being refurbished as a

museum and a community center; and a Jewish day school with 145 students, many recently arrived from the former Soviet Union.

They visited the Wannsee Conference Center, site of the famous meeting in 1942 at which the full force of the Nazi bureaucratic apparatus was brought on board the plan to exterminate Europe's Jews. Today the center is a museum and Holocaust study center.

The UJA leadership met with German President Richard von Weizsacker. Using a phrase heard often throughout the visit, he told the group that the problem with Germany in the 1930s was not that it had too many Nazis, but that it had too few democrats.

Today's Germany, he insisted, was different.

Indeed, many members of the mission were impressed with the devotion to democracy and abhorrence of xenophobia, and with the Germans they met, ranging from journalists to Holocaust researchers to the driver of one tour bus, who had affixed to his bus a ragged sticker with the logo "Smash racism! Smash Nazism!"

'I Don't Feel A Whitewash In Germany'

"He didn't put it up for us," said Norry of the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet.

"There's a whitewash going on in Austria. I don't feel a whitewash in Germany," he said.

And there was another factor that forced many on the mission to re-evaluate their view of Germans: the realization that most of the Germans they met, and passed on the streets, weren't alive in 1933.

"I came here expecting to hate Nazis, and instead I found Germans," one member of the mission said, expressing a common sentiment.

Norry, like his mission-mates, was also impressed by a Berlin Jewish community that had dropped all pretense of sitting with its suitcases packed to leave, and which was eager to receive recognition from Americans.

"We've almost treated them like our slightly crazy cousins," said Norry. "Why would they want to be in Germany?"

After the visit, Norry felt convinced by their argument that there was nothing wrong about rebuilding a Jewish community in Berlin.

"Why should there be no Jews in Germany?" Norry asked. "Why should the Nazis be winners?"

"We need to create a bridge with the community, create ties," said Max "Skip" Schrayner II, co-chair of the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet.

But despite the vibrancy he saw in the Jewish community, and his sense that there was indeed a "new Germany," Schrayner still worried about whether it could happen again.

"Was the Holocaust an aberration in history? I don't think so," he said. "The question is, are we going to be vigilant or not?"

OLDEST FORTRESS WALL UNEARTHED

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Archaeologists have uncovered what they believe is the oldest fortress wall ever found anywhere, the Antiquities Authority has announced.

According to archaeologist Eli Yanai, an 83-foot-long wall unearthed near Hadera is more than 5,000 years old.

Some experts estimate it to be as old as 7,000 years.

The remains of the wall came to light during construction to widen a road running through the Wadi Ara valley of the southern Carmel range.