

VOL. 71 - 76th YEAR

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1993

NO. 233

**PALESTINIANS VOICE DISMAY AT DELAY  
AS LIKUD URGES REJECTION OF PLO DEAL**  
By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- An air of disappointment and dashed hopes filled the administered territories following the decision by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat to postpone the implementation of the self-rule accord by 10 days.

Rabin's meeting with Arafat in Cairo ended Sunday without agreement on who will control the border crossings between the Gaza Strip and Egypt and between the West Bank town of Jericho and Jordan.

Also unresolved was the size of the autonomous Jericho district that will come under Palestinian self-rule and the number of Israeli forces that will provide security for settlers in the territories.

In Jericho, where self-rule was originally scheduled to begin Dec. 13, a partial strike was observed Monday to protest the 10-day postponement.

Outside Jericho's PLO office, a sign read, "This office is closed because Israel does not want peace."

"We have to have many changes on the ground, especially on such a day when all the world is looking to Jericho," Abdel Karim, the head of the office, told Israeli Radio. But "what is different?"

About 40 Palestinian police, trained to be Arafat's bodyguards, crossed the Allenby Bridge and went to eastern Jerusalem on Monday, but there was little other evidence of a new era.

At a special session on Monday, Rabin told his Cabinet that he hoped the next 10 days would close the gaps separating the Israeli and Palestinian positions.

He did not rule out some unilateral moves to demonstrate Israel's commitment to the accord, but he would not say if they would include prisoner releases, as had been previously reported.

**'Unacceptable' Demands**

But Rabin told the Cabinet that Israel would not give the Palestinians control over the border crossings because that would compromise Israel's security and because such control is a part of Israel's sovereign rights.

He also called Palestinian demands for the land around Jericho "unacceptable."

PLO negotiators have been demanding that the autonomous Jericho district comprise an area of some 133 square miles. The Israelis are offering an area of about 18 square miles.

Cabinet ministers rejected the notion that the negotiating process is in a crisis and is likely to break down.

"I don't think this is going to happen," said Health Minister Haim Ramon.

"There is no alternative to Israel and the PLO but to implement this agreement," he said.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, of the left-wing Meretz Party, said he detected no differences among Cabinet members about the line Rabin is pursuing with the PLO.

Indeed, his Meretz colleague, Cultural Minis-

ter Shulamit Aloni, defended Rabin's positions.

She said Arafat's insistence on controlling border crossings relates to sovereignty, which is a matter of permanent status, according to the declaration of principles that forms the basis of the self-rule accord.

Issues relating to the permanent status of the nascent Palestinian entity, said Aloni, were not on the agenda now.

Arafat mistakenly believes he is already the president of Palestine, Aloni said.

Dr. Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli Arab who is Arafat's political adviser, observed that Israel and the PLO are poles apart in their negotiating positions. He said more personal contact and pressure by an intermediary may be needed to bring the parties to an agreement.

Likud Leader Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday called for the government to rescind the Israel-PLO accord because the PLO hasn't honored its commitments.

**Daily Violence Continues**

"I'm not impressed by momentary delays," said Netanyahu. "The record of this government has been to give in consistently to all PLO demands and I'm afraid that's unlikely to change."

Right-wing Knesset members staged a sit-down protest outside the prime minister's office. Some expressed satisfaction over Rabin's tough stand with Arafat, which they claimed was partly a result of their influence.

Violence, a staple of the daily landscape lately, continued to undermine the negotiators' attempts to establish peace in the region.

A suicide-bomber driving a stolen ambulance was killed Monday after he tried to attack an Israeli army patrol in Gaza. Reserve soldiers shot the driver after he ignored calls to stop.

The militant Islamic Jihad movement took responsibility for the attack.

The same day, in the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza, Israeli soldiers opened fire during a demonstration, killing two Palestinians and wounding several others.

One of the Palestinians killed during the demonstration was a wanted activist with the militant, Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The other was a member of Islamic Jihad.

**MUBARAK PLANS HIS OWN 'CAMP DAVID'**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt appears to be planning a mini-Camp David for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat when they meet again in his capital in 10 days.

Mubarak told an Israel Television reporter on Monday in Cairo that he would ask the two leaders to stay together in Cairo for two to four days, until they reach agreement on the disputed issues.

Arafat and Rabin failed Sunday to bridge their differences at a two-hour session in Cairo under Mubarak's auspices. As a result, the scheduled start of implementation of the Israel-PLO accord was postponed.

## ISRAEL AND MOROCCO REPORTED ON VERGE OF EXPANDING THEIR TIES

By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- Israel and Morocco are reportedly on the verge of expanding their ties.

While the expansion would not create diplomatic relations between them, the two countries are reportedly set to announce economic measures including air, telephone and mail links.

Morocco has been at the forefront of Arab countries open to contacts with Israel.

The Israeli Embassy here said Monday that it could confirm the general direction of the information reported in Monday's New York Times about the agreements.

The article said Morocco's King Hassan "has decided to broaden his country's economic cooperation with Israel in a major step toward the eventual normalization of relations."

The paper cited Clinton administration officials as sources.

Embassy spokesman Dan Arbelle said he could not go into details of the Times report.

But sources in the pro-Israel community said Monday that they had heard from a very senior State Department source that the New York Times story was true.

The Moroccan Embassy here would not comment on the article.

Arbelle of the Israeli Embassy said, "We do detect" on the part of Morocco "a trend that illustrates more normalization" of Israeli-Moroccan relations.

The Times reported that Israeli national airline El Al and the Moroccan airline, Royal Air Maroc, had agreed on flights between Israel and Morocco.

In addition, the Times reported that the two countries planned direct phone and mail links, and that Israel's two chief rabbis would visit Morocco.

Also, Israel and Morocco would set up joint banking arrangements and would increase the number of contacts among officials from both sides, the Times reported.

A State Department spokesman said Monday that such agreements would be "the sort of measures that would be important for providing support" in the region for the peace process, but added that the department had no further comment on the specifics of any agreements.

## ZOA'S ELECTION OF PRESIDENT SHOWS DISCONTENT WITH PLO PACT

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America has expressed its dissatisfaction with the progress of Israeli-Palestinian peace accords by electing a hard-line activist as the organization's president after a hard-fought campaign.

Morton Klein of Philadelphia defeated incumbent James Schiller on Sunday in what was described as a close vote.

The ZOA has long been one of the most hawkish of the American Zionist organizations and is linked to a faction of Israel's Likud party.

But following the defeat of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, and particularly after the signing in September of the declaration of principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the ZOA lowered its political profile to adhere to the American Jewish main-

stream's generally accepted policy of support for the elected government of Israel.

Klein, however, charged that the ZOA failed to be diligent enough in exposing how the PLO and Chairman Yasser Arafat violated the declaration of principles.

"The people at ZOA thought that by doing that, we would hurt the peace process," said Klein after his victory. "I think it would put some pressure on the PLO to abide by the agreement they signed."

Klein, an economist and health statistician, first made his mark on the Jewish community by protesting anti-Israel biases he discovered in textbooks, travel guides and newspapers.

This past year he led an unsuccessful campaign to block the admission of Americans for Peace Now into the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The ZOA convention, meeting in Washington, also elected the entire slate of officers aligned with Klein.

## IDF COMPLAINS ABOUT UNIFIL TROOPS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- Israel has filed a complaint with the United Nations against a Finnish unit of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, charging that the unit refused humanitarian aid to an Israeli tank crew that came under fire in southern Lebanon.

The complaint was based on an incident last week, when an Israeli tank was hit by a missile fired by gunmen with the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah movement.

The commander of the tank was killed, and several men were wounded.

An Israeli drove the damaged tank to a UNIFIL post manned by Finnish soldiers and asked to use the radio to contact the Israel Defense Force. The Finnish soldiers refused on the grounds that their radio could not make contact with the IDF network, the complaint said.

The complaint described the Finnish soldiers' reactions as callous and not in conformity with the humanitarian mission of UNIFIL, which has been in Lebanon since 1978.

UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel said the incident was due to a "most regrettable misunderstanding."

## LIKUD DENIES CHARGES ON NETANYAHU

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- The Likud party this week denied charges that its leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, misused funds he raised for Jewish settlers at gatherings in New York last September.

According to the Jerusalem Post, the allegations against Netanyahu were made by Jack Avital, an officer of the New York-based World Committee for Israel.

Avital charged that Netanyahu used nearly \$200,000 to help cover the party's deficit instead of directing the funds to the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, a group representing settlers' interests. The fund-raising events were sponsored by committee members.

The Likud has countered that the amount in question was much less than \$200,000 and that it was earmarked for Likud.

The party's legal adviser, Eitan Haberman, reportedly said the money helped pay for a demonstration in Jerusalem co-sponsored by Likud and other groups against the self-rule accord.

## JEWES WORRIED BY ULTRANATIONALIST'S STRONG SHOWING IN RUSSIAN ELECTIONS

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- The surprise showing of Russian ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party in that country's parliamentary elections has Jews, both here and in Russia, decidedly worried.

Initial returns showed Zhirinovskiy, who is widely seen as fascist and anti-Semitic, to have won between 20 and 30 percent of the vote, more than any other party.

"He's out there on the fringe," said Martin Wenick, executive vice president of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, which resettles Russian and other immigrants in the United States.

"When you start the slogan 'Russia for the Russians,' that's very scary stuff. What he's really saying is that nobody else counts," said Wenick.

"That type of sloganeering we've seen before in history," he added.

Zhirinovskiy's party seal reportedly features the old Russian empire ranging from Finland to Alaska. He has called for reasserting Russia's military dominance, has threatened the Baltic states and has called for renewed massive arms sales to Arab states. During the Persian Gulf War, he supported Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

President Clinton, in his initial reaction to Sunday's balloting, emphasized that Russian President Boris Yeltsin won ratification for his revised constitution.

But Jewish officials found less comfort in the constitution, which promises to advance reform and democratization by concentrating power in the presidency.

"What's dangerous is that the constitution is oriented to Yeltsin," said Leonid Stonov of the Union of Councils, an advocacy group for Jews of the independent states that succeeded the Soviet Union.

"If tomorrow something would happen to Yeltsin, there are no vice presidents, no legal transferring of authority," he said.

### 'Clear Danger Signal For Russian Jews'

Stonov and others also found little comfort in the reports that Zhirinovskiy is half Jewish, a fact he heatedly denies.

Just how powerful Zhirinovskiy would be in the new Parliament remained unclear, pending final count of the votes. He was leading initial returns for the half of the lower house of Parliament that was elected along party lines. Half of the Parliament will made up of local representatives, and there has yet been no indication which way most of them will lean.

Russia's Choice, the party closest to Yeltsin and most supportive of reform, was predicted to come in second.

But the Russian Communist Party and several other Communist offshoots did very well.

In a statement, Union of Councils President Pamela Cohen said the election returns elevate Zhirinovskiy from "a marginal clown to a significant and credible player in Russian politics."

"Adolf Hitler's rise to genocidal power from a legal parliamentary election victory is a frightening model for what could happen in Russia," she said.

Similarly, Rabbi Avi Weiss, national chairman of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, called the strong showing of Zhirinovskiy's party "a clear danger signal for Russian Jews."

Given the "drastic deterioration" of Russia's economy, "scapegoating of Jews and other ethnic minorities is a distinct possibility," he warned.

Other Jewish groups were similarly, though more cautiously, concerned.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry welcomed the passage of the new constitution, but expressed concern over the apparent strong showing of the ultranationalists. The group promised to monitor the situation closely.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the ecumenical Appeal of Conscience Foundation, also praised the passage of the new constitution, but called Zhirinovskiy's electoral success "a threat to the future of democracy in Russia."

Stonov recalled participating in a conference on the KGB last May when "Zhirinovskiy entered the hall, and his behavior was absolutely hooliganism. He said the Jews should go to Israel, the Democrats should go to jail. It's unbelievable that most people supported him. He has no real economic program."

## THIEVES NAB JEWISH MUSEUM TREASURES

BUDAPEST, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- Unknown thieves absconded with millions of dollars' worth of Jewish ritual objects from the Jewish museum here over the weekend.

The theft, discovered Sunday when museum doors were opened to the public, is tremendous, Gusztav Zoltai, a Jewish community leader, told Hungarian Radio.

The pieces stolen were described as "extremely precious" and included old books, silver candelabras and other silver items.

Police investigating the crime discovered that the museum's electronic security system had been disconnected.

It was also noted that the museum was very poorly guarded.

The museum is located next to the Dohany Street Synagogue in the old Jewish quarter.

## GAY EL AL STEWARD WINS BENEFITS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- A gay airline steward has won his legal battle with El Al Airlines, gaining for his partner a benefit usually reserved for spouses.

The steward won the right to a free plane ticket each year for his companion.

A seven-judge panel of the national labor court ruled unanimously Sunday to dismiss an appeal by El Al against a previous decision by a district court.

The lower court recognized the steward's request to have the airline recognize his partner as his "common law companion" and grant the benefits the company gives to other workers' spouses.

According to company policy, El Al gives at least one free or discounted ticket each year to the spouses of tenured workers.

The judges ruled that the company had discriminated against the steward by not giving his partner these tickets, as it did for the spouses of heterosexual employees.

The court said El Al had violated Israel's equal opportunity law, which forbids discrimination against a worker because of his sexual orientation.

That law, which prevents discriminatory practices in the workplace, went into effect in January 1992.

## AUSTRALIA ENDS PROSECUTION OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS THERE

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- Australia's prosecution of Nazi war criminals living in this country has effectively come to an end.

Last Friday, Michael Rozones, the director of public prosecutions, withdrew charges against accused Nazi war criminal Heinrich Wagner on grounds of poor health.

Wagner, who is accused of murdering more than 100 Jews in Ukraine, suffered a heart attack late last month and doctors have advised that a continuation of the case against him could result in his death.

The decision to terminate the case against Wagner, who had pleaded not guilty, comes seven years after an Australian government investigation determined that it was "more likely than not" that a significant number of Nazi murderers entered Australia at the end of World War II.

None of the four men who have been accused of or stood trial for war crimes here have been convicted. All are residents of the South Australia city of Adelaide.

A representative of the Public Prosecutor's Office told the Australian media that further legal proceedings under the Australian War Crimes legislation, passed in 1988, are not expected.

The decision to drop the charges against Wagner came as the prosecution investigating team was in Germany collecting evidence against him.

Wagner was on trial for the 1942 murders of 104 Jews and 19 specially targeted children of Jewish fathers in the Ukrainian village of Izrailovka.

The Jewish community here has accepted the course of events, noting that due legal process was followed.

Isi Leibler, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, said that "Australia behaved as well as any country could have been expected to behave under the circumstances.

"Investigations were conducted and prosecutions were initiated, despite the time which had elapsed and the complex legal nature of trials arising from the War Crimes Laws."

### A Compounded Tragedy

He said further that such trials "would have been unnecessary if Australia had appropriate immigration procedures in place in the 1940s and 1950s."

"The tragedy is compounded by the fact trials did not take place decades ago," Leibler said.

Australian Attorney General Michael Lavarch defended the government for having passed legislation to prosecute accused Nazi war criminals, despite the government's failure to secure convictions.

He said the evidence that had been uncovered in a 1986 review of the entry of suspected Nazi war criminals into Australia had given the government little alternative other than prosecuting accused Nazis.

Last year, charges against Mikolay Berezkowsky were dismissed by an Adelaide magistrate. In June, a 12-person jury found charges against Ivan Polyukhovich unproven after the judge advised the jury that it was nearly impossible to prove charges so many years after the crimes had been committed.

All three had been accused of murder in Nazi-occupied Ukraine.

Funding for the Special Investigations Unit of the federal police ceased last year and is unlikely to be renewed to allow completion of the small number of outstanding cases.

Technically, the Australian Federal Police can investigate allegations under the War Crimes Act, but local observers believe there is virtually no chance this will happen.

## HUNGARIAN PREMIER ANTALL DEAD; WAS PERCEIVED AS A WEAK LEADER

BUDAPEST, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, who was prodded to combat anti-Semitism in Hungary, died here Sunday after a long bout with lymphoma, a form of cancer.

The 61-year-old Antall was Hungary's first non-Communist leader since the longtime pro-Soviet government was ousted in 1989.

Antall was the leader of the centrist Hungarian Democratic Forum, which has been increasingly leaning to the right.

Antall was perceived as a weak leader lacking charisma. He was not forceful in the face of constant criticism that he failed to repudiate and dismiss his second in command, Istvan Csurka, for a string of anti-Semitic comments in broadcast and print media.

In November 1992, Antall attacked Csurka for his anti-Semitic stance without mentioning him by name, only describing Csurka's comments as stupid and foolish.

Criticisms came from Jewish organizations and from the U.S. government, which threatened to cut off American aid and tourist contacts if Hungary accepted Csurka's beliefs.

Earlier this year, Antall finally dealt with the issue by cutting the position of vice president from the party.

The party expelled Csurka from its parliamentary faction in June and shortly thereafter from the party.

Csurka formed his own political party in July.

The organized Jewish community in Hungary, numbering at least 85,000, was unhappy with Antall's reluctance to push for legislation banning increasingly pervasive extreme-right organizations and making it illegal to deny the Holocaust took place.

This came despite the fact that Antall's late father, also named Jozsef Antall, had saved the lives of Jews during the Holocaust and had been named a righteous Gentile by the Yad Vashem Memorial in Jerusalem.

Antall paid homage to his father at Yad Vashem when he visited Israel three years ago. He was the first Hungarian premier to do so.

Antall angered the Jewish community in May when he railed against comments that Jewish contributions to Hungarian culture outweighed "peasants trousers and apricot whiskey."

Antall had warned that the comments of Rabbi Gyorgy Landesman "could cause the outbreak of anti-Semitism in Hungary."

Antall asked Israeli Ambassador David Kraus to use his influence to obtain Landesman's resignation. In response, the Jewish community agreed to abolish the post of chief rabbi altogether.

Antall's behavior was further criticized in September when he ordered the reburial with honors of the Hungarian fascist leader Miklos Horthy, whom Antall praised as a "Hungarian patriot."