

**RABIN READY FOR DEEPER WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN THAN IDF HAS PROPOSED**

By Dvora Getzler

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appears ready for a deeper withdrawal from the Golan Heights than his generals have proposed.

This admission was wrung out of him by Likud's Benny Begin in an appearance by Rabin before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

At the same hearing on Tuesday, Tsomet Knesset member Moshe Peled accused Rabin of dragging the Israel Defense Force into the politics of the peace process with Syria.

How had it happened, Peled wanted to know, that the IDF generals had prepared a withdrawal document?

Rabin replied that the IDF report, and others like it, including one recently prepared by the Foreign Ministry, "is nothing more than a presentation of facts and figures to help the political echelons to arrive at informed decisions.

"Neither the IDF nor any other state institution busies itself with diplomatic affairs. They supply security information at our request and direction alone," the prime minister said.

The IDF proposals were contained in a working paper completed this week that may well be used as the basis for upcoming negotiations with Syria.

The proposals in that report reportedly include an Israeli willingness to withdraw from the Golan Heights, but without any mention of full withdrawal.

A recent report in the highly respected Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz indicated that the Israeli Foreign Ministry was drafting a detailed blueprint for peace with Syria that would be based on a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

Rabin has stated several times in the past that he would call for a referendum among the Israeli public before agreeing to any "major" withdrawal on the Golan in return for the establishment of peaceful relations between Israel and Syria.

**Palestinians Allowed To Return**

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu used Rabin's appearance before the committee to attack him for stating Tuesday that Israel will allow families of the members of the future Palestinian police force to return to the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

"This is tantamount to accepting the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland," Netanyahu said. "We are not talking about a wife and a dog here. We are talking about big families.

"What if the figure is 50,000 or 60,000?" Netanyahu asked.

"There are more than 750,000 Palestinians in Gaza," Rabin answered. "In my view, another 20,000 or 30,000 won't make any difference."

During the committee session, Rabin complained that the IDF was so occupied in the West

Bank and Gaza Strip guarding settlements that it was not training sufficiently.

Later in the day, the Council of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, a leading settlers group, retorted that if the IDF was spending its time needlessly on anything, it was on the defense of the self-rule accord Israel signed last fall with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

**TALKS IN CAIRO HIT SOME SNAGS, BUT ISRAELI-PLO DIALOGUE CONTINUES**

By Dvora Getzler

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) -- Negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization ran into snags this week in Cairo, although both sides were stressing that the dialogue between the two sides is continuing.

A major difficulty holding up the signing of a final agreement in the Egyptian capital was the issue of who will have legal jurisdiction over non-Palestinians once self-rule is implemented in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The Israelis were arguing that their courts should have jurisdiction, while the PLO was maintaining that such a stance would undermine their autonomy.

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'ath called a press conference Tuesday to draw attention to what he described as a "crisis" in the talks on legal issues.

By way of illustration, he noted that if someone commits an offense in England, he would be brought before a court there. No one, he said, would dream of his being brought to trial before the court of another country.

A source in the Israeli delegation said in reply that the Palestinians were demanding the jurisdictional rights of a sovereign nation, which is not the status that will be accorded the Palestinian enclaves in Gaza and Jericho under the terms of the accord signed last fall in Washington.

The Cairo talks have also reportedly hit snags on the release of Palestinians held in Israeli jails and the boundaries of the Palestinian enclave in Gaza.

Last week, the Israelis agreed to release 5,000 Palestinian prisoners; 2,500 were to be released upon the signing of a final agreement in Cairo, with the remainder to be set free three weeks later.

But this week, in part the result of recent terrorist attacks that took the lives of 13 Israelis and wounded over 70 more, the Israeli delegation said that 1,000 prisoners who had been convicted of security crimes would not be released.

PLO negotiators are also complaining that the current map of the Palestinian enclave in Gaza will give them no access to the Mediterranean Sea. Israeli negotiators are countering that the borders of Gaza had already been finalized in previous rounds of negotiations.

A snag was also reported this week in the separate multilateral talks being held in Oman on the issue of water resources in the Middle East.

There, Israelis and Palestinians showed they could cooperate against a Jordanian attempt to torpedo the talks, which include more than 40 countries.

The Jordanian observer to the discussions on preserving scant water resources this week announced his country's opposition to all the agreements reached so far.

The reason for the Jordanian stand was their demand that the United States withdraw its embargo on shipping bound for the Jordanian port of Aqaba. The embargo had been imposed after Jordan began shipping goods to Iraq during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Jordan's opposition was important, since all decisions reached at the Oman talks must be agreed to unanimously.

The Palestinians were particularly upset by Jordan's move, since it threatened important Palestinian gains made at the talks.

The Jordanian stance was also a blow to Oman, which has gained in prestige since the talks began.

With the U.S. chairman of the talks trying to rescue the negotiations, the Palestinian and Israeli delegations told him that if he could not persuade Jordan to back down, they would recommend to the other participating countries that they nevertheless adopt the meeting's decisions.

That move was apparently enough to cause Jordan to back down.

#### **ISRAEL ROUNDS UP MORE THAN 250 MEMBERS OF HAMAS AND ISLAMIC JIHAD** By Dvora Getzler

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA) -- In an effort to clamp down on recent terrorist activity, the Israeli army rounded up 250 members of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement on Tuesday in a house-to-house search in parts of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The same day, Israeli troops and plainclothes intelligence agents also arrested 40 members of the militant Islamic Jihad.

Israeli security forces in the West Bank and Gaza rounded up members of the two groups in large predawn sweeps and herded them onto buses.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad roundly oppose the ongoing peace initiatives between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Both groups have claimed responsibility for a series of terrorist actions against Israelis in the months following last September's signing of the Palestinian self-rule accord in Washington.

In comments to reporters Tuesday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed to use whatever means possible to put an end to terrorist assaults on Israelis.

"We will fight those who continue terror with all the means that are available to us. The only limitation is the limitation of the law," he said.

Hamas has claimed responsibility for two bomb attacks this month on buses in the Israeli towns of Afula and Hadera. Twelve Israelis were killed in the two attacks and more than 70 were wounded.

Tuesday's roundups brought the total of Hamas supporters arrested since the two bombings to about 400.

#### **ASSAF HEFETZ IS NAMED TO SUCCEED RAFI PELED AS ISRAELI POLICE CHIEF** By Dvora Getzler

JERUSALEM, April 17 (JTA) -- Assaf Hefetz, head of the police central command, will become Israel's new police chief on May 1.

As a result of a decision reached at Sunday's weekly Cabinet meeting, Hefetz will replace Rafi Peled, who resigned the post last week.

Hefetz's appointment had been widely predicted. But it led to the resignation of Jerusalem Police Chief Yehuda Wilk, who reportedly did not get along with Hefetz.

"Our methods are not the same," Wilk said of Hefetz when he announced his departure.

Wilk's replacement has yet to be announced.

Peled resigned last week after the High Court of Justice recommended that the attorney general investigate the possibility of making Peled face a police disciplinary court.

The court had previously dismissed a petition brought by a law student who was incensed that Peled had not been punished for accepting favors from Israeli resort hotels.

The court saw nothing criminal in Peled's acceptance of generous reductions at the hotels, but it suggested that the police chief had not behaved in an appropriate manner.

The court had also said that an official rebuke administered to Peled by Police Minister Moshe Shahal was insufficient.

The resignation of Peled, who was appointed police chief in February 1993, came as a surprise to many observers here.

#### **20 ISRAELIS WILL HELP MONITOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA** By Suzanne Belling

JOHANNESBURG, April 19 (JTA) -- Twenty Israelis will be going to South Africa to help monitor the country's first democratic elections on April 27 -- six of them forming part of an official United Nations monitoring team.

The U.N. monitors include three Knesset members, Naomi Chazan of Meretz, Saleh Tareef of Labor and Eliezer Sandberg of Tsomet.

The other monitors form part of an Israeli team. Among its members are former Russian refusenik Natan Sharansky, Professor Itzhak Galnoor, a prominent academic, and Arik Bachar, foreign editor of the Hebrew daily newspaper Ma'ariv.

Two of the monitors have close connections with prominent Jewish South Africans.

Chaim Slovo, commissioner for the southern region in Israel's Interior Ministry, is a cousin of Joe Slovo, chairman of the South African Communist Party and a leading figure in the African National Congress. They did not even know of each other until recently.

Another Israeli monitor, Nicole Goldstone, is the daughter of Judge Richard Goldstone, who has played a pivotal role in the transition in this country as head of a commission of inquiry, bearing his name, into the causes of violence in South Africa.

He recently revealed findings on the alleged involvement of senior police officers in the so-called "third force" aimed at destabilizing the country through violence to disrupt the elections.

**HUNDREDS GATHER IN WARSAW  
TO COMMEMORATE GHETTO UPRISING**  
By Deborah Kalb

WARSAW, April 19 (JTA) -- In a ceremony heavy with memories, several hundred people gathered here this week to lay wreathes in a solemn ceremony commemorating the 51st anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Under bright but chilly skies, survivors of the uprising joined with Polish government officials, soldiers and others on Tuesday at a monument honoring the Jews who died during the monthlong uprising against the Germans in April 1943.

Unlike last year's 50th anniversary ceremony, which was attended by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Polish President Lech Walesa, this year's event did not feature any speeches by dignitaries.

But to the officials and others who attended the ceremony, it was a meaningful event.

"It is important for two reasons: to commemorate the memory of Polish Jewry and for educational reasons," said Gershon Zohar, the Israeli ambassador to Poland.

"The new generations with us are not very much aware of the atrocities of war," Zohar told reporters attending the ceremony.

Johannes Bauch, the German ambassador to Poland, who attended the ceremony, said he brought along two young Germans from the embassy to partake in the ceremony.

"It is good for them (to) see places where horrible crimes on behalf of their land were committed," Bauch said. "It's the best way to teach them the lesson of history."

Two mourners recited the Kaddish and El Maleh Rachamim, the traditional Jewish prayers for the dead, after numerous wreathes were laid.

**'A Lot Of Witnesses Are Dead Now'**

A flame burned next to the memorial, which was flanked by Israeli and Polish flags.

The memorial stands in a square located in the neighborhood where the Warsaw Ghetto once stood.

Wladyslawa Zawictowska, a survivor of the ghetto who attended the ceremony with her husband, said it was "difficult to define" how the ceremony made her feel.

"I have to go back to the time of our pain and suffering," she said. "A lot of witnesses are dead now. There are only a few people who remember. We are the only witnesses."

Zawictowska, who lives in Warsaw and said she is "about 80" years old, attends the commemoration every year.

She survived by hiding and pretending to be Polish, after living in the ghetto for a while.

The ghetto uprising began April 19, 1943, and lasted through mid-May.

After the Germans crushed the rebellion, the vast majority of the remaining residents were deported to the Treblinka concentration camp.

Warsaw was home to over 375,000 Polish Jews before World War II.

But as the Nazis forced Jews from other towns into the ghetto, that figure swelled to over 450,000.

Nearly 3 million Polish Jews were murdered by war's end.

**BULGARIAN PRESIDENT ATTENDS CEREMONY  
MARKING WWII RESCUE OF BULGARIAN JEWS**  
By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, April 19 (JTA) -- At a ceremony here commemorating the rescue of Bulgarian Jews during World War II, the president of Bulgaria said he hopes for a Europe in which xenophobia and anti-Semitism will cease to exist.

"I hope that a free and united Europe, East and West, will be declared a zone where xenophobia and anti-Semitism will not be tolerated," Bulgarian President Zheliu Zhelev said at the ceremony, which was held Sunday.

The ceremony was organized by the permanent delegations of Bulgaria and Israel to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and sponsored by UNESCO.

The European Jewish Congress, an affiliate of the World Jewish Congress, also helped organize the event.

The ceremony commemorated the rescue of more than 40,000 Bulgarian Jews, who were to be deported to concentration camps in March 1943.

Under pressure from opponents of the deportation, which included 43 members of the Bulgarian Parliament, the government rescinded the deportation order.

More than 11,000 Jews in the Balkan regions of Thrace and Macedonia, which at the time were annexed to Bulgaria, were not affected by the government's decision to halt the deportations.

They were sent to Treblinka and other death camps.

**UNESCO 'Cannot But Rejoice At Taking Part'**

At the ceremony, UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor Zaragoza said that "true to its intellectual and ethical mandate, UNESCO, which was the moving force behind the United Nations Year of Tolerance, cannot but rejoice at taking part in such a ceremony."

He called the ceremony "an occasion to reaffirm the principles which the community of nations agreed upon in the aftermath of World War II."

Referring to a draft declaration on tolerance that UNESCO is planning to submit to the U.N. General Assembly, Mayor said that "tolerance is meaningless unless it identifies and denounces intolerance."

"It is no coincidence that the attitude of the Bulgarian people in 1943 made possible the rescue we are commemorating here," said Ilko Eskenazi, a member of Bulgaria's Parliament who is president of the Zion Jewish Committee.

"This people has, on many occasions, demonstrated its attachment to pluralism and ethnic tolerance," he said.

Israel's ambassador to UNESCO, Eliezer Palmor, said that beyond historical facts, it was the "militant humanism" and the civic courage of an entire people that was being celebrated.

"Bulgaria is the only sovereign country allied to the Germans that saved its Jews," said industrialist Louis Blum, himself a Holocaust survivor.

Jean Kahn, president of the European Jewish Congress, announced that a conference on ethnic and religious tolerance organized in conjunction with the Council of Europe will be held later this year in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia.

**HUNGARY HAS 1ST OFFICIAL CEREMONY  
MARKING DEPORTATION OF JEWS TO CAMPS**  
By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST, April 19 (JTA) -- For the first time ever, Hungary held official ceremonies this week to commemorate the deportation of 600,000 Hungarian Jews to death camps during World War II.

The commemorative events, which were held here on Sunday, began with a ceremony at the Central Jewish Cemetery, where the 50th year anniversary of the Hungarian Holocaust was remembered.

On Sunday evening, a ceremony sponsored by the World Jewish Congress was held at the Opera House here. Among those attending were Hungarian President Arpad Goncz.

Goncz told the audience to remember the "passivity of hundreds of thousands of people, watching hundreds of thousands of their fellow countrymen marched away to death."

He also spoke of the heroism of the "dauntless few who did everything in their power to slow down the smooth operation of the death machine."

The commemorative events were at least partially organized in an effort to bring Hungarian anti-Semitism -- both during the war and in current times -- to the attention of the Hungarian populace, which heard little about the subject during the years when the country was under Communist rule.

The Communists had discouraged all discussion of the treatment of Hungarian Jews at the hands of both the Nazis and the Arrow Cross, the Hungarian fascist party that allied itself with the Germans.

But plans to organize the commemorations were not without their share of controversy.

**Israeli Knesset Speaker Attended**

Earlier this year, the Hungarian Jewish community was seriously at odds with the government over when to hold a day of mourning to mark the Holocaust here.

The government had wanted to commemorate the occupation of Hungary by the Germans on March 19, 1944, not the Jewish deportations, which began on May 15 of that year.

A separate controversy erupted when the government allowed extreme rightists, members of a new political party founded by ultranationalist Istvan Csurka, to serve on the commemorative committee. Csurka has in the past made a series of public anti-Semitic statements.

Among those invited to attend the ceremonies was Shevach Weiss, the Knesset speaker.

Weiss made an official visit to Hungary at the invitation of his Hungarian counterpart, George Szabad, the speaker of Hungary's Parliament, who is Jewish. The Jewish committee that helped organize the events also invited Weiss.

"Modern anti-Semitism is very dangerous in Europe. Neo-fascism is having a revival, and the activists are not stupid, primitive persons, but intellectuals and leading personalities," Weiss said during his speech at the Jewish Cemetery.

Thousands of people were at the cemetery, despite heavy rains.

While in Budapest, Weiss met Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Boross and Foreign Minister

Geza Jeszensky. Boross laid a wreath at the Jewish cemetery, but both he and Jeszensky declined invitations to speak at the Opera House on Sunday night.

After meeting the two leaders, Weiss told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it was very important that Israel was represented at a high level at Hungary's Holocaust commemorations.

The Hungarian political elite have a "deep interest in emphasizing their unique relations with the Jewish community and with Israel," he said.

Noting that representatives of the Hungarian Jewish community have been complaining that anti-Semitism is on the rise here, Weiss said that such concerns made it all the more important that he attend the Holocaust ceremonies.

As part of the weekend's commemorative events, the Budapest Jewish Museum reopened over the weekend.

The museum had been robbed of priceless Jewish historical artifacts in December by burglars who still remain at large. Police have made no progress in finding the artifacts, which are valued at \$60 to \$80 million. It has been rumored here that Israel's intelligence agency, Mossad, also took part in the investigation.

New pieces that had not been on display before were on view at the museum. Most of these pieces were donated by private individuals and other museums.

"The fact that we have been able to gather a new collection so fast shows that Jews want to go on living here," said Rabbi Tamas Raj, who spoke at the museum's reopening ceremony on Friday.

**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL TO DESTROYED SHUL  
DEDICATED IN GERMAN CITY OF WUPPERTAL**  
By Igal Avidan

BERLIN, April 19 (JTA) -- Dedication ceremonies were held last week for a Holocaust memorial that was erected on the site of the former Old Synagogue in the western German city of Wuppertal.

Among those attending last Friday's dedication ceremony were Ignatz Bubis, chairman of the Federation of Jewish communities in Germany, and Johannes Rau, prime minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, where Wuppertal is located.

The new building stands in the same location as the former synagogue, which was burned down by the Nazis on Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, in November 1938.

The building will also house an information center about the Holocaust and will serve as a conference center for interfaith dialogue. Construction of the \$3 million center began in 1986 and was financed by the city.

The center will be run by several organizations, including the Jewish community in Wuppertal, Catholic and Protestant churches and the local university.

An exhibition details the history of the local Jewish community, which was existed since the last part of the 16th century. Local opposition resulted in a decade when the Jews were expelled.

A spokesman for the City Council said that "unfortunately," special security measures had been needed for the opening ceremonies. But he added that in the future, no round-the-clock police protection would be possible at the site.