

**ISRAELI-PLO PACT ON GAZA-JERICHO  
CONTAINS CONCESSIONS BY BOTH SIDES**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA) -- The agreement that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization were expected to sign in Cairo this week is the result of significant concessions from both sides.

In reaching the agreement, Israel granted some PLO demands that would give the Palestinians the symbolic trappings of statehood -- including their own postage stamps and international telephone codes.

But the measures do not go so far as to imply Israeli recognition of Palestinian sovereignty.

The Israeli Cabinet and officials at PLO headquarters in Tunis gave their approval Sunday for their respective leaders to sign the agreement, which will usher in a new era of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The agreement, scheduled to be signed in Cairo on Wednesday by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, clears the way for the implementation of the broad principles of Palestinian autonomy that were signed last fall in Washington.

Some 2,500 guests were invited to the Cairo ceremony, which was to be hosted by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is touring the Middle East on a fresh round of shuttle diplomacy.

The final, unresolved points in the agreement were to be hammered out at an 11th-hour "summit meeting" between Rabin and Arafat on Tuesday or Wednesday in Cairo.

Both sides have agreed that these final points -- which include the precise size of the autonomous Jericho district and the deployment of a Palestinian police on the Allenby Bridge between the West Bank and Jordan -- would not be allowed to hold up the signing.

**Trade-Offs Led To Agreement**

Agreement on the final document was reached at the talks in Cairo following a trade-off of significant concessions between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Arafat.

With Rabin's prior approval, Peres agreed to let the Gaza-Jericho self-governing authority issue its own postage stamps, have its own internationally recognized telephone dialing code and issue travel documents that were described as both a laissez-passer and a passport.

The PLO gave in to Israel's insistence that Israeli nationals come solely under Israeli legal jurisdiction for any crime they might commit inside the territory of self-governing Palestinian districts.

While the full text of the political and security agreements was not to be published until after Wednesday's signing ceremony, it is believed to contain the following main elements:

- \* The Israeli army withdrawal from Gaza and

Jericho will be completed within 10 days of the agreement's signing.

- \* The temporary international presence to be stationed in Gaza and Jericho will hail from six of the countries that are contributing materially to the Palestinian self-government, but not from the United States. There was no agreement yet on their exact number.

- \* Residents of Gaza and Jericho will be issued a travel document, labeled "Laissez-Passer" with the word "Passport" printed below. It will be valid for three years.

- \* Arafat, who will be free to visit or take up residence in the self-governing districts, will continue to call himself "chairman of the PLO" -- or, if elected chairman of the Palestinian self-government, then that title -- but not "president of Palestine."

- \* The Palestinian postage stamp will bear the legend "Palestinian Authority."

**Another Promise To Change Palestine Covenant**

- \* The next session of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's so-called "parliament in exile," will take up the question of abrogating the sections of the Palestine National Covenant calling for Israel's dismemberment. This was a commitment undertaken by the PLO in the agreement on mutual recognition that accompanied the declaration of principles signed last September in Washington.

- \* Palestinians will be guaranteed unfettered freedom of movement between Gaza and Jericho, under detailed arrangements that have been hammered out.

- \* Another issue reportedly resolved in principle, but not yet published, even informally, is that of air-space rights and arrangements, over both Gaza and Jericho, and other parts of the West Bank that may revert to Palestinian self-rule in the next phase of the peace process.

- \* The "Cairo Agreement" reached earlier this year, mainly regarding arrangements at the Allenby Bridge crossing between Jordan and the West Bank, has been reconfirmed and applied in virtually all its details to the Rafah checkpoint between Egypt and Gaza.

- \* Israel will release 5,000 PLO prisoners upon the signing of the agreement or immediately afterward. Israel also has agreed to release thousands of prisoners of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement -- but not those guilty of actual attacks on Israelis -- as long as they provide a written pledge to refrain from future violence, to support the peace process and to accept the PLO's authority.

According to Israeli observers, none of the Hamas prisoners is likely to accept these terms; and so they will remain behind bars for the present.

The PLO for its part, however, will gain political points in the territories for having negotiated terms for the release of Hamas members, thereby demonstrating its concern for all Palestinian prisoners, not just those from its own adherents.

In Paris, meanwhile, Israeli and Palestinian

negotiators signed an agreement last Friday establishing the terms of economic relations between the two parties.

The 60-page agreement, signed after eight rounds of negotiations in the French capital, calls for open borders between Israel and the areas falling under Palestinian authority, and allows for the free movement of labor, services, most agricultural products and other goods between the two sides.

The agreement stipulates that Israel and the Palestinian authority will have similar policies regarding imports and customs.

The Palestinians will be able to import goods from Arab and Islamic countries in limited quantities.

Agricultural produce from Gaza and Jericho will enter Israel freely, except for five goods on which import quotas have been imposed for five years: tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, eggs and poultry.

The two customs authorities will jointly operate the border crossing in Jericho and Gaza.

The Palestinians will establish a monetary authority regulating and supervising all banks operating within its area of authority.

The two sides agreed to continue to discuss alternatives to a Palestinian currency. Until then, the Israeli shekel will continue to constitute legal tender in Gaza and Jericho, "side by side with other currencies," according to the agreement.

#### Israel To Transfer Some Tax Revenues

The Palestinian Tax Administration will conduct its own direct tax policy. Israel agreed to transfer to the Palestinians 75 percent of income-tax revenues collected from Palestinians employed in Israel.

It was also agreed that the Palestinians will establish a value-added tax system similar to that currently employed in Israel.

The agreement calls for the Palestinians to establish their own social security system.

It also calls for the Palestinians to set up their own tourist administration and allows tourists to move freely between Israel and the autonomous areas.

This Thursday, the first contingents of Palestinian police were due to take up their posts in Jericho and Gaza: 500 going to Jericho and 1,500 to Gaza, complete with arms, jeeps and light-armored personnel carriers.

Also due to arrive in Jericho were administrative personnel from the PLO's Tunis headquarters. Contingents from the organization's security services were scheduled to arrive soon in Gaza and Jericho.

Yet even as these final arrangements were being made, talks were still proceeding in Cairo on some outstanding issues, including control of the territorial waters off Gaza and the granting of pardons by the PLO to those who have collaborated with the Israeli authorities.

Changes in travel arrangements in the Jericho area were to go into effect Wednesday.

The Israel Defense Force commander for the central sector told Israeli settlers in the Jordan Rift north of Jericho on Sunday that they would no longer be allowed to drive through Jericho, and that if they wanted to travel to Jerusalem, they would have to use an alternative road network.

In the township of Kiryat Malachi, north of Gaza, anti-government feelings were running high, with residents protesting what they believed to be the government's intention to make the highway that runs past their township available for Palestinian passage.

*(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Michel Di Paz in Paris.)*

#### **RABIN OFFERS SYRIA NEW IDEAS AND TAKES FLAK FOR IT AT HOME** By Dvora Getzler

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA) -- As U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was presenting Syrian President Hafez Assad with new Israeli peace proposals, Israeli opposition leaders here condemned the plan as a betrayal of the State of Israel.

After meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Friday, Christopher flew to Damascus, where he met with Assad on Saturday and again Sunday evening.

Christopher, believing that negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization were well on their way to a successful conclusion this week, was eager to take advantage of momentum in the peace process and bring Jerusalem and Damascus closer together.

Israeli-Syrian negotiations have dragged on for months without any headway and were suspended entirely by Assad in the wake of the Feb. 25 massacre in the West Bank city of Hebron.

During his meeting with Assad, Christopher conveyed Rabin's new proposals for peace with Syria. The proposals reportedly call for a phased Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights over a period of eight years, in exchange for the establishment of a full peace between Israel and Syria, complete with open borders, free trade and the exchange of ambassadors.

Christopher was expected to return to Israel on Monday with Assad's response to Rabin's proposals.

But Israeli opposition leaders had their own responses Sunday -- and they were far from positive.

Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition Likud party, accused Rabin of having "perpetrated the greatest political fraud ever in the history of our state."

Rafael Eitan, a former army chief of staff who heads the right-wing opposition Tsomet party, said that no concessions should be made on the Golan.

"Our border with Syria has been peaceful all the time because Syria needs peace as much as we do. We are a two-hour tank ride from Damascus," said Eitan.

Israel, which captured the Golan in the 1967 Six-Day War, has long considered the strategic plateau as crucial to its security needs, though some Israeli generals have argued more recently that demilitarization of the region would assure Israeli security.

Rabin, countering a barrage of recent right-wing criticism of his efforts to re-establish negotiations with Syria, has said in recent months that he would call for a national referendum before offering to make any major withdrawal from the Golan in exchange for peace with Damascus.

## JEWS DISAPPOINTED BY HIGH COURT RULING THAT LIMITS '91 RIGHTS LAW TO NEW CASES

By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- As the victim of repeated sexual harassment by a co-worker throughout her two-year employment at a company in Texas, Barbara Landgraf sought to apply a sweeping new civil rights law in her case against her employer.

The problem, however, was that Congress passed the new civil rights law after she filed her suit. Landgraf argued that since her case was pending when the law took effect, she should be subject to the law's added protection.

Landgraf took her case to the Supreme Court, where she received the support of a number of organizations, including some Jewish organizations.

Those Jewish groups voiced disappointment when the Supreme Court ruled last week that the Civil Rights Act of 1991 does not apply retroactively to cases such as Landgraf's that were pending at the time the law was enacted.

"Justice should have called for (people like Landgraf) to receive the benefit of retroactivity, and now they will not," said Sam Rabinove, legal director of the American Jewish Committee.

The AJCommittee, along with the Anti-Defamation League, had filed an amicus brief in support of Landgraf in her case, Landgraf vs. USI Film Products. That case and another, Rivers vs. Roadway Express, were decided April 26 by the Supreme Court.

The 1991 law benefits the victims of job discrimination by allowing them to have their cases heard by a jury and to collect increased money damages.

Juries are generally regarded as being kinder to the claims of employees than judges.

Employees such as Landgraf will also lose out on increased damages -- as much as \$300,000 -- that the act allows to compensate them for their injury and punish their employer for permitting the offending conduct.

### Religious Discrimination Covered

The decision means that scores of people claiming to be victims of harassment and other intentional discrimination, whose cases were filed but not yet resolved when the law took effect, cannot avail themselves of the law's benefits.

Victims of intentional job discrimination based on religion are now covered by the act, which also covers intentional employment discrimination on the basis of race, sex and disability.

"There may well be cases of religious discrimination where the victims of such discrimination could have benefitted from the retroactivity of the law," said Richard Foltin, AJCommittee's legislative director and counsel in Washington.

Rabinove said because the law includes the discrimination that make up most cases, the justice's decision could have far-reaching effects.

AJCommittee and ADL estimate that thousands of employees who had cases pending when the new law was passed will be affected by the decision.

"This could be a make-or-break (decision) for many plaintiffs" in discrimination cases, Rabinove said.

## PARIS MAYOR GIVEN STEINSALTZ TALMUD, PRAISES RABBI AS DOCTOR OF THE FAITH

By Michel Di Paz

PARIS (JTA) -- Seven and a half centuries after King Louis IX ordered all copies of the Talmud burned, the mayor of Paris was presented last week with the first French edition of the Steinsaltz Talmud.

At a ceremony attended by Chief Rabbi Rene Samuel Sirat and other French rabbis, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz gave the first volume of the French translation of the Talmud to Mayor Jacques Chirac.

The mayor, in turn, gave Steinsaltz the Medal of Paris.

During his speech, Chirac told the audience, "There is in the Talmud a particularly striking scene: The greatest of all prophets, Moses, listens to the teaching of the illustrious Rabbi Akiva and is astonished when he hears comments that he himself, the master par excellence, did not know.

"One cannot express in a better way the idea that the Talmud is an everlasting re-reading of the unfathomable Torah of Moses by qualified scholars," the mayor said.

He called Steinsaltz "one of those doctors of the faith who, thanks to their intelligence, knowledge and wisdom enlighten the path of the Jewish people."

In a reference to one of the greatest of all Jewish commentators, Chirac told Steinsaltz, "You are regarded as one of the leading rabbinical figures of this century and the worthy successor of Rashi of Troyes."

The French version of the Steinsaltz Talmud is published by Jean-Claude Lattes with the help of the Fonds Social Juif Unifie, or the United Jewish Social Fund.

According to the bookshop Le Bibliophane, which is located in the ancient Jewish quarter of Paris, the first 150 available copies of the French edition of the Steinsaltz Talmud were sold out in a couple of hours.

The French version opens with the tractate Ketubot, or marriage contracts, and Steinsaltz's handbook to the Talmud.

## SCHINDLER'S FACTORY IN KRAKOW CONSIDERED FOR TOURIST ATTRACTION

By Ruth E. Gruber

KRAKOW, Poland, May 1 (JTA) -- Krakow may have a new tourist attraction this season -- Oskar Schindler's enamelware factory, which was used for location shots in the film "Schindler's List."

The factory, the actual place where Schindler employed the Jews that he saved, now produces electrical components.

It was open to the public earlier this month, when at least 800 teen-age participants of the March of the Living visited it -- each charged the equivalent of \$1 entrance fee.

Workers at the factory, located in an outlying industrial district between the wartime ghetto and Plaszow concentration camp, say they are considering opening the plant to other tourists this season.

Steven Spielberg shot some of the scenes in the film that take place at the factory on the spot but used constructed sets for most interiors.

## THIS YEAR'S MARCH OF THE LIVING RAISES SOME TROUBLING QUESTIONS

By Ruth E. Gruber

OSWIECIM, Poland (JTA) -- This year's "March of the Living," a biennial pilgrimage in which thousands of Jewish teen-agers from across the globe trek from Auschwitz to Birkenau, has raised troubling questions among Jews and non-Jews in Poland.

Organizers said that this march, the fourth since the event was begun in 1988, was "inspired by the renewed wave of anti-Semitism, neo-fascism, racism and Holocaust denial." And participants pledged that they would use their experience to fight all forms of racism and discrimination.

But some aspects of the march, such as the perpetuation of negative views of Poles, raised criticism. People asked if its true purpose -- to commemorate the dead by affirming contemporary Jewish life -- had been served.

Many of the young participants, for example, came primed with a negative view of Poland, that of a wasteland populated by anti-Semites, and encountered little to change their minds.

There was criticism that the march's participants were kept segregated from the local populace and prevented from having meaningful contact with contemporary Poland and Polish people, including today's small Polish Jewish community.

These elements, critics said, painted a false picture and fostered the continuation of stereotypes and prejudice.

The march was made by 6,500 teens from about 35 countries who then continued on to Israel, to spend a week learning about and celebrating the Jewish state. They marched in Poland under a sea of Israeli flags.

In Poland, the teens traveled in hundreds of tour buses guarded by Israeli and Polish security men. They visited Nazi death camps, including Majdanek, Treblinka and Plaszow, the labor camp near Krakow made famous in the film "Schindler's List."

They also visited the site of the Warsaw Ghetto.

### 'It Changed Me A Lot'

Some groups toured villages and towns which before the war had been Jewish shtetls or had large Jewish populations.

For many, the trip was an emotional and highly intense experience.

"It changed me a lot," said Pam Vininsky of Montreal. "It made me see the important things of life, rather than focusing on the unimportant."

Another participant from Montreal emphasized the negative.

"A previous marcher told me to come here with an open mind, not just with hatred toward Poles," the Montrealer said. "But all we see is the bad part. We aren't seeing the good sides."

One contingent of marchers staged an informal, "Saturday Night Live"-style show on their last night in Poland. Although it was extremely well done, much of the presentation was taken up by stereotypical "Polish jokes."

And one adult group leader made statements clearly implying that Poles who today live near Birkenau and Majdanek do so because they hate

Jews and want to gloat over the places where they were killed.

"I saw houses right by Birkenau that back home would have cost \$750,000," this leader said. "If they can afford houses like that, why would they choose to live there, to have their children open the windows and look onto Auschwitz?"

And one Jewish observer voiced concern that the teen participants' views and feelings were affected by a "roller coaster" of emotions created by a combination of "sleep deprivation and having a good time riding around in fancy buses."

This, the observer said, created "periods of intense grief and then happiness again."

Stanislaw Krajewski, the Jewish co-chairman of the Polish Council of Christians and Jews and the American Jewish Committee consultant in Poland, warned that while the march was conceived as a positive affirmation, its misuse or manipulation could have dangerous consequences.

"The march has a great potential to confront fundamental issues. I am concerned, however, that without careful guidance, it can strengthen chauvinistic attitudes," he said.

"Marching with scores of banners is not only paying tribute to the victims, but also looks like a triumphal, victorious manifestation," he said. "Victory over whom?"

"The natural consequence is that the enemy that is confronted are the Poles living around the camps. This is both false and potentially harmful, because the deepest issue that should be confronted is what is our own responsibility for activities that can bring prejudice or crimes following on from prejudices."

### A Pole Asks If March Is Too Israeli

Jerzy Bebak, a Polish journalist who lives in Oswiecim -- the Polish name for Auschwitz -- and who is an activist in the Polish-Israeli Friendship Society, noted that what marchers may have felt was anti-Semitism from Poles may have been something else -- for instance, the disruption the march causes in the towns through which it passes.

"On the day of the March of the Living, the village of Brzezinka (Birkenau) is virtually cut off by security and preparations for the march. Local people can't get to work or go about their normal business. Naturally they don't like that," he said.

A Polish member of Parliament who is a strong supporter of Israel said he was concerned that the march's emphasis on carrying only Israeli flags transformed it from a Jewish commemoration into an Israeli event.

Jonah Bookstein, an American Fulbright scholar in Krakow active in educational programs for young Polish Jews who only recently discovered their Jewish heritage, criticized march organizers for what he said was a deliberate effort to ignore or dismiss Poland's present Jewish community, which is growing.

"Part of the March of the Living's portrayal is that Poland is a dangerous, anti-Semitic country," he said. "It is not a dangerous country, and whether it is anti-Semitic or not depends on who you are talking to," he said.

Bookstein noted that for the first time, some non-Jews took part. Among them were members of the Polish-Israeli Friendship Society, who marched with a banner reading "Polish Friends of Israel."

They were applauded by the marchers.