

**RABIN SAYS ISRAEL WILL 'ASSIST' PLO
IN SETTING UP ITS AGENCIES IN JERICHO**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 31 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin declared Tuesday that Israel would "assist" the Palestinians in setting up their self-governing agencies in Jericho if they are unable to move them there from Jerusalem.

The prime minister made the pledge, first to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and then at an impromptu news conference, following a statement by Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini on Monday accusing Israel of waging a campaign to remove all Palestinian self-rule institutions in Jerusalem.

Rabin said he distinguished sharply between those institutions in Jerusalem whose task was to deal with the various needs of the Palestinian population in Jerusalem and other institutions that would in effect serve as constituent agencies of the Palestinian governing authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Rabin said the Palestinians were committed under the self-rule accord to set up this second category of agencies in Jericho.

If they did not fulfil their commitment, Rabin said, Israel would assist them in doing so.

Rabin noted that the Israeli authorities were studying the functions and purposes of the various Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem.

He said the authorities would use "legal means" to enforce the terms of the agreement.

The Palestine Liberation Organization's Jerusalem headquarters, located at Orient House in the eastern section of the city, has long been a matter of controversy between the government and opposition in Israel, and indeed between hawks and doves within the governing coalition.

Israeli opponents argue that the steady growth of the institutions located at Orient House and in nearby facilities is deliberately intended by the PLO to lay the groundwork for a future Palestinian seat of self-government -- and later for a full-fledged capital.

Likud Cites Voting Concessions

The Likud particularly faults the government for allowing, in the accord signed last September, Jerusalem-based Palestinians to have the right to vote in the elections for Palestinian self-government, which are scheduled to take place in several months.

The question of where they are to exercise that right was left open, with the Israeli side insisting that it be exercised outside the Jerusalem city limits.

Nevertheless, the Likud and other parties of the right argue that the concession on voting opened the way to further Israeli concessions on the final status of Jerusalem.

The concession on voting rights, members of the right contend, recognizes that the Jerusalemite Palestinians are part and parcel of the newly created autonomy.

But government officials point to the fact that people in the West Bank with Jordanian

citizenship have the right to vote in Jordanian elections -- but that does not make the West Bank part of Jordan.

Israel and the PLO agreed last September that the issue of Jerusalem was to be negotiated only in the "permanent status" talks, due to begin within two years.

Since then, however, and especially in recent days, the two sides have been accusing each other of seeking to change the status quo in the city to its own advantage.

The Israelis are criticized for building new housing projects -- "settlements" in Palestinian parlance -- and for cutting off Jerusalem from the West Bank by means of the closures intermittently imposed on the territories.

And the Palestinians are accused by Israel of attempting to build up Orient House and its allied institutions into a capital-in-embryo.

Highly placed Palestinian sources in the city have claimed midweek, meanwhile, that a secret agreement exists between Israel and the PLO ensuring the inviolability of the existing Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem.

Rabin was questioned specifically on this Tuesday. But observers noted that his statement, though tough-sounding, did not directly contradict the Palestinian claim, which, it could be argued, related to institutions devoted to the needs of Jerusalem-based Palestinians.

**RABIN TELLS KNESSET: SYRIA STILL
NOT READY FOR SERIOUS PEACE TALKS**

By Dvora Getzler

JERUSALEM, May 31 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin stated flatly this week that Syria is still not ready to engage in serious peace talks.

Speaking before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday, Rabin added that he would support any further attempts by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher -- who visited the region twice in May -- to broker a peace with Syria.

He noted, however, that the United States could do little more to bridge the gap between Jerusalem and Damascus.

"We have an interest in Christopher coming to the region every so often, but I believe Washington has exhausted itself," Rabin said.

During the committee session, Rabin strongly denied newspaper reports which stated that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had insisted he heard Rabin say he was ready to withdraw from every inch of the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria.

"Stuff and nonsense!" said the prime minister. "I never said anything like that to Mubarak. Not to him and not to the Syrians."

Rabin was challenged at the hearing by Likud Knesset member Ze'ev Binyamin Begin to comment on widespread rumors that Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat intends to visit Jerusalem when he travels to the Jericho autonomous district.

Rabin countered that he would not favor

such a visit at the moment, but he could not say what he might feel about it in two years' time, when negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem are slated to start.

He added that Arafat has so far made no official request to Israel to fix a date for his much talked-of visit to Jericho.

PLO officials had previously announced that Arafat intended to make the visit to Jericho in mid-June.

Rabin also told the committee that the Israeli authorities have placed strict limits on the movements of the Palestinian chief of internal security in Jericho, Jabril Rajub.

He said Rajub's movements had been confined to the autonomous Palestinian entity in Jericho after Rajub gave what were seen as highly provocative interviews to Arab reporters in eastern Jerusalem.

In one of these interviews, Rajub was quoted as saying that those opposed to the peace process must continue the armed struggle against it.

Rajub has refused to comment on the order confining him to Jericho.

LABOR KNESSET MEMBER SNEH APPOINTED NEW HEALTH MINISTER, SUCCEEDING RAMON By Dvora Getzler

JERUSALEM, May 31 (JTA) -- Labor Knesset member Ephraim Sneh has been appointed Israel's new health minister, filling a post that had remained vacant since Haim Ramon resigned in February in a dispute over health care reform.

Sneh, 49, is closely associated with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. He won the health portfolio over stiff competition from other young Labor leaders.

His appointment as health minister may signal a first step on the ladder to a more senior post in the party.

Sneh succeeds Ramon, the maverick Labor politician who taught his party a painful lesson earlier this month when he snatched away the top Histadrut post from the party's official candidate in a national election.

Ramon had resigned earlier in the year over the government's refusal to establish a new national health insurance program that would have broken the link between the Histadrut labor federation and Kupat Holim, Israel's largest health fund.

Sneh, a former head of the civil administration of the West Bank, had gained a dovish reputation and was once a close associate of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

But he now appears to be projecting a strong security image and is said to be firmly allied to Rabin.

He was sharply critical of Ramon's association with the left-wing Meretz bloc, believing that it may have robbed Labor of its centrist, security-minded reputation.

Sneh, who was a doctor by training, became a career military officer and then joined the Labor Party in 1988. He was elected to the Knesset in 1992.

His father, Moshe Sneh, headed the Haganah, the forerunner of Israel's armed forces, from 1941 to 1946 and later served for many years as a representative of the Communist Party in the Knesset.

IN PRISON CEREMONY, POLLARD WEDS LEADER OF GROUP SEEKING HIS RELEASE By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, May 31 (JTA) -- Jonathan Pollard, the former U.S. Navy analyst convicted of spying for Israel, has married the head of a Canadian group seeking his release.

The ceremony took place recently at the Federal Correctional Institute in Butner, N.C., where Pollard is serving a life sentence. The bride is Elaine Zeitz, who heads Citizens for Justice for Jonathan Pollard, Canada.

Zeitz would not say exactly when the wedding took place, or who performed it.

"We're not giving out any details right now," said Zeitz. "Jonathan is still the most monitored, most harassed, most abused prisoner in the American system at this time, and literally everything has an influence on him" and his conditions, she explained.

In March, President Clinton turned down Pollard's petition for clemency, as had President Bush before him. Zeitz vows to continue the struggle for Pollard's release, saying the American public needed to understand "what is at stake: No one in a democracy is safe if they can do to one person what they did to Jonathan."

She said that she and Pollard hope to make a life together in Israel when he is released. "We look forward to having a joyful (wedding) ceremony, in full view, where we would be happy to share the details," said Zeitz.

Pollard divorced his first wife, Anne, in the spring of 1991. She had been paroled in April 1990 after serving 40 months of a five-year jail term in connection with Jonathan's espionage activities.

Zeitz said she "reconnected" with Pollard four years ago, when she began working for his release. She would not say how or when she originally met him.

"We wish them good luck," said Morris Pollard, Jonathan's father. "It's something Jonathan really had a desire for and I can't say I blame him for it. He's been very lonely. Life for him has been very lonely."

Rabbi Avi Weiss, who describes himself as Pollard's personal rabbi, said he did not perform the ceremony. Zeitz would not comment on this.

A FIRST: ISRAELI GETS POST AT WHO By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An official at Israel's Health Ministry has been elected first vice chairman of the World Health Organization's Executive. The position is said to be the highest United Nations post ever filled by an Israeli.

Pnina Herzog, the Health Ministry's deputy director-general in charge of international relations, was elected at a WHO assembly meeting in Geneva last week. She will serve in the post for three years.

Herzog, a pharmacist by training and a long-time Health Ministry official, will serve on WHO's program development committee.

WHO was established in 1948 to serve as the central agency directing international health-improvement efforts for the United Nations. It draws its representatives from six geographical regions. Israel is a member of WHO's European region.

RELIGIOUS HEADS ASK EUROPARLIAMENT CANDIDATES TO HIGHLIGHT HUMAN RIGHTS

By Michel Di Paz and Beatrice Luzzatto

PARIS, May 31 (JTA) -- A leader of French Jewry has spurred a multireligious call on candidates to the European Parliament to spotlight human rights in their campaign platforms, including support for measures to counteract racism and anti-Semitism.

Jean Kahn, head of CRIF, the umbrella body of French Jews, initiated the written appeal, issued two weeks prior to elections to the parliament, the legislative body of the European Union.

The petition was signed by the head of the Paris Mosque, Dalil Boubaker; the president of the Bishops Conference, Joseph Duval; and the president of the French Protestant Federation, the Rev. Jacques Stewart.

The document said the signatories were "deeply troubled by the extension of racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and intolerance throughout Europe" and expressed the belief that these attitudes are "crimes to be punished by law and (are) not mere opinions to be freely expressed."

On June 12, voters in the 12 European countries belonging to the European Union will elect a new European Parliament, which will hold sway for four years.

Among the 350 million people represented by the E.U., an estimated 1.5 million are Jews. Although in many political issues Jewish attitudes and voting patterns are not expected to differ much from those of non-Jews, there are some subjects which attract particular Jewish interest, such as anti-Semitism and relations with Israel.

According to a report published by the European Jewish Information Center in Brussels, only two of the parties participating in the election have established platforms regarding Israel and the Middle East peace process.

The information center, which is chaired by Sir Trevor Chinn of Great Britain, was established in 1990. The center's report noted that many of the candidates to the parliament support greater E.U.-Israel cooperation.

The report includes a survey of European Parliament policy over the last five years on Israel and the Middle East. During this period, an important pro-Israel group was founded in the European Parliament, chaired by a former Belgian government minister, Willy de Clercq of the Liberal Reform Party.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Joseph Kopel in Brussels.)

MORE JEWS THAN EVER SERVING IN SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

By Suzanne Belling

JOHANNESBURG, May 31 (JTA) -- Following last month's all-race elections, more Jews than ever before are serving in the new South African parliament.

Joe Slovo, chairman of the South African Communist Party and national executive member of the ruling African National Congress, has been appointed minister of housing.

He is only the third Jew to be appointed to the Cabinet in South Africa. Louis Shill, the second Jew to attain Cabinet rank, served as

minister of housing until the new government took office earlier this month.

Born in Lithuania, Slovo came to South Africa as a child and was trained as a lawyer. He went into exile in the early 1960s. He played a leading role in the 30-year armed struggle against apartheid, for many years heading the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto weSizwe. He returned to South Africa after the ANC was legalized in 1990.

Of the nine Jews in the new 400-seat Parliament, or National Assembly, seven are members of the ANC. They include Slovo, Ronnie Kasrils, Raymond Suttner, Gill Marcus, Max Coleman, Mary Elizabeth Turok and Jeffrey Brian Peires.

The other two are Tony Leon, of the Democratic Party, and Esme Chait, representing former President F.W. de Klerk's National Party.

Leon, in his mid 30s, capped a meteoric political career on Sunday with his election as leader of the Democratic Party. This follows the resignation last week of the former party leader, Dr. Zach de Beer, following the party's poor showing in the elections.

Leon, a lawyer, gained national prominence in local politics while still in his 20s.

He entered Parliament in 1989, representing a constituency held for 35 years by veteran Democratic Party parliamentarian Helen Suzman.

QUEBEC NATIONALISTS HELPED HARBOR NAZIS AFTER WWII, ACCORDING TO REPORT

By Gil Kezwer

TORONTO, May 31 (JTA) -- Prominent right-wing Quebec nationalists helped shelter war criminals and collaborators after WWII, according to a report this month in the Montreal newspaper *Le Devoir*.

Quebec university students Jean-Francois Nadeau and Gonzalo Arriaga discovered that the late historian Robert Rumilly led a network that lobbied hard to allow "French political refugees" to live in Canada after 1945.

Among the war criminals Rumilly allegedly protected was Jacques Duge, who was sentenced to death in absentia by a French court in 1947.

Duge, also known as Count Jacques de Bernonville, was the right-hand man of Klaus Barbie, the Gestapo chief of Lyon from 1942 till the city's liberation in 1944.

In 1987, Barbie, called "the Butcher of Lyon," was extradited to France from Bolivia, where he had lived for 34 years, to stand trial.

After his conviction, he died in prison of cancer in September 1991.

De Bernonville slipped into Canada from the United States in 1946 dressed as a priest. He remained in Quebec five years, staving off deportation through the help of the Catholic Church and other powerful sectors of Quebec society.

In 1951, when de Bernonville was about to be arrested and extradited to France, Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent gave him warning, and the Vichy collaborator escaped to Brazil.

He was found strangled to death in his Rio de Janeiro apartment in 1972.

Others who found shelter in Quebec, according to *Le Devoir*, were Count Victor Kayserling, a German SS officer and diplomat who later fled to Haiti; Julien Labedan, who led the Vichy Milice (militia) against partisans; and Dr. Michel-Lucien Seigneur, a French SS veteran.

LISA HOSTEIN OF PHILADELPHIA IS APPOINTED NEW EDITOR OF JTA

NEW YORK, May 31 (JTA) -- Lisa Hostein of Philadelphia has been appointed editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, an international agency providing news and feature stories of Jewish interest to publications and subscribers around the world.

Hostein, 33, leaves her post as news editor of the Philadelphia weekly Jewish Exponent to assume JTA's top editorial position on June 1.

The announcement of her appointment was made here by Marshall Weinberg, president of the JTA board of directors, and Ben Zion Leuchter, chairman of the agency's editorial committee.

As editor, Hostein succeeds Mark Joffe, who was promoted to executive editor and publisher last fall, after serving in the post for six years. Joffe will continue to guide overall editorial policy while turning his attention to general management of the agency and overseeing the redesign of JTA publications.

Hostein will be in charge of coordinating JTA's daily news coverage and supervising a worldwide staff of more than 30 staff writers, foreign correspondents, bureau chiefs and editors. She will be assisted in this task by Rifka Rosenwein, who will continue serving as JTA managing editor.

A native of Barrington, R.I., Hostein began working at the Exponent, one of this country's premiere Jewish weeklies, as an intern in 1982.

After graduating from Swarthmore College with a bachelor's degree in political science and international relations, she served as a general assignment reporter at the Exponent for one year, before leaving the paper to spend time studying and writing in Israel.

Five-Time Winner Of Rockower Award

Hostein returned to the Exponent in 1985 and became news editor in 1987.

She has traveled widely, undertaking assignments in Israel, Argentina, France, India, Romania, Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia and several U.S. cities.

A five-time winner of the Simon Rockower Award for Excellence in Jewish Journalism and a recipient of an award from the Philadelphia Press Association, Hostein is also co-author of the 1990 book "Your People, My People: Finding Acceptance and Fulfillment of a Jew By Choice" (Jewish Publication Society).

"I am thrilled to be joining JTA at a time when both the news world and the Jewish world are facing new challenges," said Hostein.

"I'm looking forward to meeting those challenges head on and to contributing to the growth of the agency, so that it continues to serve as a primary and relevant source of information for Jews around the globe."

Founded in The Hague in 1917, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was the first news agency that not only gathered but also disseminated news in every part of the world.

Today it is based in New York, with bureaus in Washington, Jerusalem and Paris, and correspondents in 20 countries around the world.

It is a primary source of news about international developments for more than 100 Jewish publications based all over the globe.

ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER REASSURES AMERICAN JEWS ABOUT NEW GOVERNMENT
By Deborah Kalb

WASHINGTON, May 31 (JTA) -- A delegation of Jewish leaders emerged from a meeting here with Italy's new foreign minister feeling somewhat reassured about the new Italian government, which includes a neo-fascist political party.

Lester Pollack, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, told reporters after the meeting that "on balance," the Jewish leaders "felt comfortable" with the presentation made by visiting Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino.

Pollack called it "a very positive meeting."

Last Tuesday's hour-long meeting at the Italian Embassy here, held at Martino's request, gave Jewish leaders a glimpse into the mind-set of the new Italian government -- about which there has been much concern in the American and Italian Jewish communities.

The new government is a right-wing alliance led by billionaire media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi. His governing Freedom Alliance links his Forza Italia party with the neo-fascist National Alliance and the separatist Northern League.

The meeting covered a wide range of topics, including Jewish concerns about the new government and future Middle East Italian policies.

'Wasn't A Victory Of The Right'

"The minister assured us that the government is a centrist government, and that the defeat of the left (in Italy's recent elections) was not a victory of the right," Pollack said.

In addition, according to Pollack, Martino said that his government hoped for even stronger relations with the United States, and said he believed his government would be the most pro-Israel government in Italy in the past 20 years.

The newly appointed foreign minister, in office only eight days at the time, told the Jewish delegation that his government is supportive of the Middle East peace process, and indicated that he would assist the Palestine Liberation Organization in trying to organize its political and economic structures in an effort to further the peace process.

He also said that his government would be interested in assuring that the PLO comply with the terms of the self-rule accord signed with Israel, Pollack said.

Martino spoke of Italian opposition to the Arab boycott of Israel, and said that he would support amendments within European political and economic bodies to encourage trade with Israel.

The foreign minister told the Jewish leaders that his government would deal with any future right-wing extremist action the same way it dealt with recent verbal violence by skinheads in northern Italy.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents, said the Jewish leaders had "expressed concern" about elements in the new Italian government, and that Martino had said that statements by various officials could not be controlled.

But the minister said that new electoral reforms in Italy would lead to a more centrist government, and to the election of fewer extremists, Hoenlein added.