

**ARAFAT STIRS CONTROVERSY AGAIN  
BY DECLARING JERUSALEM HIS CAPITAL**  
By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, June 1 (JTA) -- As the newly named members of the Palestinian governing authority prepare to arrive in the West Bank town of Jericho, Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat has again sparked controversy by naming Jerusalem as the capital of Arab Palestine.

This bombshell, which came in an interview with Radio Algeria on Wednesday, came hard on the heels of Arafat's now-infamous remarks in Johannesburg last month, when he called for a jihad to liberate Jerusalem.

Arafat later said he used the Arabic word to refer to a peaceful struggle, although jihad is generally translated as "holy war" in English.

During his Johannesburg speech, and in subsequent remarks, Arafat also implied that he could break the agreement between the PLO and Israel whenever he pleased.

In Wednesday's interview, Arafat said that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 specifically recognizes that Jerusalem is an integral and indivisible part of the territories that Israel conquered from the Arab states in June 1967.

"It is on that basis that we went ahead with the Madrid and Oslo talks," said Arafat, referring to negotiations that preceded the signing of the Palestinian self-rule accord.

In a letter that the PLO leader sent to the heads of the non-aligned states, who met this week in Cairo, Arafat said that remarks about Jerusalem made this week by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin were in contravention of the autonomy agreement signed in Cairo last month.

Earlier this week, Rabin said that Jerusalem would remain the undivided capital of Israel. He added that Israel will take steps to prevent the establishment and operation of any Palestinian autonomous agencies in Jerusalem.

Libya's official press agency wrote on Wednesday that Rabin was humiliating Arafat over the Jerusalem issue.

According to the declaration of principles signed last fall by Israel and the PLO, Jerusalem was to be the subject of "final-status" negotiations, which are to begin in no later than two years.

**Offices Readied For Members of Authority**

Preparations are meanwhile underway for the arrival in Jericho of some of the senior members of the newly formed Palestinian governing authority, which will have overall responsibility for Palestinian affairs in the autonomous regions of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Among those expected in Jericho by the end of this week or the start of the next are Nabil Sha'ath and Ahmed Karia, both of whom hold economic portfolios.

Some 18 offices have already been prepared for the members of the authority, which will be led by Arafat.

Also being set up in Jericho is a special

office to assist victims of the intifada, the seven-year uprising against Israel's administration of the West Bank and Gaza.

The arrival in Jericho of the council members will be the first test of their popular standing at a time when there is sharp criticism of many of the nominations.

Critics are charging that veteran Palestinian leaders who stayed in the West Bank and Gaza during the difficult years of the intifada have been overlooked and that plum posts have been given to many whose sole qualification is their closeness to Arafat.

In Gaza this week, a leader of Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement told the Israeli daily Ha'aretz that he felt sorry for the members of the Palestinian authority.

"They have to fulfil promises without having the means to keep those promises," said Hisham Abd a-Rajek.

He was referring in particular to the council's desperate lack of funds. A number of foreign countries had promised aid in the wake of last fall's signing of the self-rule accord, but the money has so far not materialized.

On Tuesday, Arafat appealed to President Clinton to encourage those who pledged aid to honor those pledges.

Earlier this week, Israel made its final payments to the tens of thousands it had employed in the civil administration of Gaza.

Rabin warned on Sunday that a financial crisis serious enough to disrupt the progress of Palestinian self-rule would occur if the promised foreign aid did not arrive soon.

**SYRIA CONDEMNS RABIN'S STATEMENTS  
THAT IT DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE PEACE**  
By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, June 1 (JTA) -- Syria has condemned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statements this week that negotiations between the two countries have reached a standstill because Syria does not want to make peace.

The Syrian newspaper Tishrin wrote this week that Damascus has time and again said it is ready to make peace, but Israel refuses to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for it to withdraw entirely from the Golan Heights.

Rabin also stated on Tuesday that he would support any further attempts by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher 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.

In Washington on Wednesday, Christopher attempted to downplay Rabin's negative assessment of the status of the negotiations.

After traveling to the Middle East twice in May for rounds of shuttle diplomacy intended to get Israel and Syria back to the negotiating table, Christopher had stated he was pleased with the progress of the stances adopted by Jerusalem and Damascus.

On Wednesday, a State Department spokes-

person said Christopher has not yet decided when he will return to the Middle East, adding that no plans for a future trip had been made or canceled.

The spokesperson did not know when a decision would be made on when Christopher would return to the region for further talks.

Earlier this week, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa charged that Israel was intransigent.

"I think Rabin must have made a mistake. He must mean Israel does not want peace," he said.

According to Sharaa, who was attending a conference of non-aligned nations in Cairo, the American failure to bridge differences between Syria and Israel was "due to Israel's stubbornness at the Washington peace talks."

Rabin this week said that those talks, which were suspended by Syria in the wake of the Feb. 25 massacre of Palestinians in Hebron, were "empty of all content."

#### **'We Have No Choice'**

Rabin has been urging Syria to attend secret negotiations with Israel similar to those which led to the signing of the Palestinian self-rule accord last September in Washington.

Speaking in South America this week, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres rejected Syria's criticism of alleged Israeli obstinacy and said that progress in the talks was "a matter of time."

"I am sure that we will make peace with Syria. The question is how to do that in the shortest possible time," he said.

For his part, Peres criticized the Syrians for attempting to conduct negotiations along "a very narrow track."

But, Peres continued, "We have no choice but to make peace."

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid of the left-wing Meretz bloc said that true peace with Syria might lead to a situation in which Israel would perhaps relinquish sovereignty over the Golan but retain a presence there.

*(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent Steven Weiss in Washington.)*

#### **CLASHES ERUPT ON THE WEST BANK AFTER HAMAS MEMBERS SHOT BY IDF**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 1 (JTA) -- More than a dozen Palestinians were wounded in clashes with the Israel Defense Force and border police this week in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

The clashes erupted Wednesday when Palestinians protested the killings the day before of two members of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement by Israeli security forces.

The two Hamas members, who belonged to the group's Izz a-Din al-Kassam military wing, were shot to death by Israeli security forces Tuesday at a bus stop in Al Ram, a West Bank village located near Jerusalem.

One of the two, Abdul Monem Naji, 25, of the Amari refugee camp near Ramallah, had been sought by the Shin Bet for the February murder of Noam Cohen, an officer with the Israeli internal security agency.

Naji had worked as an informer for Cohen. Shortly after Cohen's murder, he had boasted how

he had lured his handler to his death by arranging for him to come to a meeting in Bituniya, a village near Ramallah.

The IDF, the Shin Bet and the border police's special anti-terrorist unit were involved in Tuesday's operation.

Witnesses said that Naji and Zuhair Farah, known as a Hamas activist in Jerusalem, were shot as they got off a bus in the village.

Naji was carrying a loaded pistol when he was shot.

Immediately after the shooting, the entire village of Al Ram erupted in violence, with local residents and people from nearby Ramallah surging through the streets of both towns, burning tires and damaging property.

Soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the mobs when they began to attack the Ramallah police station.

Area residents called for a general strike for Wednesday "as a memorial for martyr Naji."

Wednesday's work stoppage and demonstrations, which took place in both Al Ram and Ramallah, were again marked by rioting, with the security services firing tear gas and rubber bullets at the demonstrators.

More than 13 people were taken to hospitals in Ramallah for treatment.

Two Hamas members who had aided Naji in the February killing of Cohen were found two weeks after the ambush in Abu Dis, a village on the outskirts of Jerusalem, where one was killed and another captured.

#### **VETERAN DIPLOMAT MAY BE NAMED TO POST OF U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL**

By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, June 1 (JTA) -- Longtime diplomat Charles Redman is rumored to be President Clinton's top choice to become the next U.S. ambassador to Israel.

News reports this week named Redman, currently the American peace negotiator in Bosnia, as the likely successor to Edward Djerejian, who resigned from the post last month.

Djerejian, who had served as ambassador to Israel for only six months, left the State Department to become director of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University in Houston.

A White House spokesperson refused to comment Wednesday on whom Clinton might nominate for the position or when the nomination would be made.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said Secretary of State Warren Christopher told him Tuesday that no decision on the next ambassador has been made.

Hoenlein quoted Christopher as saying that the nominee would be "someone of the caliber and experience of Djerejian."

Although his experience with Middle East issues is limited, Redman is said to have vast foreign policy experience. From 1986 to 1989, Redman served as State Department spokesman under former Secretary of State George Shultz.

He later served as ambassador to Sweden. Prior to his role in Bosnia, Redman served last year as the Clinton administration's special envoy to Haiti.

## JEWISH LEADERS IN ARGENTINA PREPARE LIST OF NAZIS WHO FOUND HAVEN THERE

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 1 (JTA) -- A list of 18 Nazis who found haven in Argentina after World War II, compiled by leaders of the Argentine Jewish community, is probably "just the tip of the iceberg," according to Manuel Tenenbaum, director of the Latin American Jewish Congress.

Tenenbaum, reached by telephone in Buenos Aires, said the Jewish community is optimistic that the Argentine government will do its utmost to bring these accused war criminals to justice.

Failure to do so, he said, would open up Argentina to worldwide condemnation and embarrassment. President Carlos Menem had promised to create an agency to locate and prosecute other Nazis living in Argentina after ABC Television's "PrimeTime Live" located Erich Priebke there.

Priebke, wanted for war crimes in Italy, was placed under house arrest following the program, and Italy began the paperwork necessary to extradite him from Argentina.

Another alleged war criminal, Reinhard Kopps, who pointed "PrimeTime Live" to Priebke, has reportedly fled the country. It is believed he may be in Chile. There are known ties between fugitive Nazis in the two countries, Tenenbaum said.

Tenenbaum believes Argentina will follow through on promises to extradite wanted war criminals, or that it will pass legislation to prosecute them or extradite them if such laws do not yet exist.

### 'It Is Good For The Country'

"My opinion is that the government understands that it is good for the country and its international standing to put an end to this business," he said.

Other accused Nazis who are believed by the Jewish community to be in Argentina are: \* Abraham von Kipp of Holland, an SS officer in Germany and Holland who was condemned to death by a special court in Amsterdam in 1949. The sentence was later commuted to life in prison. Kipp disappeared a couple of years ago after Holland requested his extradition.

\* Erich Schroeder, an SS officer who was head of the Gestapo in Portugal. He left Portugal in 1948 with a Swiss travel document to come to Argentina.

\* Gregory Rozman, former bishop of Ljubljana, Slovenia, accused of collaborating with Italian occupation forces. He was decorated in 1942 by the fascist government of Benito Mussolini.

\* Franjo Holy, condemned by Yugoslavia for war crimes.

\* Vinko Nikolic, Croatian war criminal. The Yugoslav government requested his extradition twice in 1947.

\* Jose Berkovic, Mirko Eterovic, Ivo Bogdan, Daniel Uvanovic, Marko Colak, Esteban Lackovic, Yakov N. Yovovic, Maks Luburic: condemned by Yugoslav tribunals. The Argentine government rejected requests for their extradition in 1947.

\* Marton Homonnay, charged as a war criminal by the Hungarian Justice Ministry. He is suspected of having been an Arrow Cross leader serving where people were tortured or executed for political or racial reasons. Hungary requested

his extradition in March 1950 but received no response.

\* Pierre Henri Albert Dave Adam, condemned to death by the Belgian War Council for collaborating with the enemy. The Belgian government requested his extradition in 1947.

\* Lecomte, no first name given, a former mayor of Chinay, Belgium, which condemned him to death.

\* Andre Vandenberghe, condemned to death by the Belgian War Council in March 1945, for having taken up arms against Belgium and for collaborating with the enemy.

## AS JEWISH MUSEUMS FLOURISH IN EUROPE, CURATORS MEET TO SHARE THE EXPERIENCE

By Marta S. Halpert

VIENNA, June 1 (JTA) -- The number of Jewish museums located in Europe has grown so rapidly in recent years that assisting the new institutions with practical advice has become an important task.

As a result, 30 curators of European Jewish museums met here recently for a three-day exchange of views and practical experience.

Representatives from Israel and the United States joined European colleagues here in Vienna, where a new Jewish museum opened just six months ago.

Professor Julius Schoeps, director of the new Viennese Jewish Museum, also hosted curators from such cities as Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, London, Paris, Prague and Athens.

Although the conference was initially called to discuss the "problems of transmitting history," its focus shifted because of urgent problems facing curators from former Communist states.

Attendees representing museums located in former Communist states face the dual problem of finding confiscated Jewish treasures and of determining legal methods for regaining these artifacts.

The curators from England and Switzerland advised their Eastern European colleagues to leave the artifacts under government control. But the curators from Amsterdam and New York disagreed.

"Europe has had bad experiences with art being in the hands of political powers," said Joan Rosenbaum of the Jewish Museum in New York.

"I think we should support you politically, morally and financially so that you get a more self-confident status," she said.

Another problem facing some of the newly opened museums is a lack of funds.

Alexander Kemeny, curator of a museum in the Slovak capital of Bratislava, said the museum is currently housed in a five-room apartment.

"We don't know if there will be any money in the near future to expand into a real museum," he said.

"There are no more than 1,000 Jews living in Bratislava today, compared to more than 15,000 before World War II. Most of our visitors are tourists to the city," he said.

Edward van Voolen, curator of the Amsterdam Jewish Museum, called for the establishment of a board that would extend practical assistance to the new museums and also coordinate international efforts.

He suggested the board meet in Vienna because of its central location and number of experts on Eastern Europe located here.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
IMMIGRANTS BRING NEW JEWISH LIFE  
AND CHALLENGES TO EASTERN GERMANY**  
By Miriam Widman

POTSDAM, Germany (JTA) -- Dr. Alexander Kogan shrugged his shoulders and tried to explain himself once more.

No, he could not help the middle-aged, recent Jewish immigrant obtain a place in a hospital for her sick husband through his connections there. The German system does not work like the Russian one. You do not have to know someone to get a hospital bed.

On a recent warm Monday afternoon, this was just one of the many requests Kogan had to deal with.

As head of the newly formed Jewish community here, the 39-year-old orthopedic specialist from Chernovitz, in western Ukraine, has his hands full helping some of the 200 Jews who recently emigrated from the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union adjust to their new life here.

Several new Jewish communities have sprung up in eastern Germany after Jews emigrated in recent years from Russia, Ukraine and other states of the former Soviet Union.

Potsdam, a city west of Berlin that is capital of the state of Brandenburg, had a Jewish community of about 450 before World War II. After the war, Kogan said, there was no Jewish community here to speak of.

The same was true of Schwerin, in north-eastern Germany, where new immigrants have revived Jewish life. And in Magdeburg, located near Potsdam in the heart of the former German Democratic Republic, hundreds of new immigrants have contributed to a growing Jewish community that struggled to survive under the former Communist regime.

By far, most Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union go to Israel or the United States. But curiously enough, thousands have come to Germany, the country that once sought to eradicate all Jewish life in the very towns where these newcomers have recently settled.

**War Veterans Who Liberated Area Settle Here**

Among the Potsdam Jews, there are Russian Jewish veterans of World War II who helped liberate this area from the Nazis. And in a further irony, the nascent Potsdam Jewish community has its offices in a complex of government-owned offices that also houses the local chapter of the Association of German War Wounded.

Many immigrants from the former Soviet republics came to Germany instead of America or Israel because it is convenient, said Kogan, who in 1990 simply packed up and drove here.

"You can't just pack your car and head for Israel," he said.

Despite the rise here xenophobic and anti-Semitic violence, the physician is not defensive about living here. "I feel at home," he said.

Another factor that played a role in his decision to move here was the relative ease with which Germany recognizes certain professions, such as medicine and engineering. Compared to the United States, where qualification exams must be passed, getting a license to practice medicine in Germany for an ex-Soviet Jew is easy.

The Potsdam community leader has two things going for him that many of the more recent Jewish arrivals do not. For one, he speaks passable German, mostly learned here. Second, he has a job.

More than 90 percent of the Potsdam Jews live in the former lodgings of Soviet army officers who were posted here.

The apartments were renovated by the state government, and the new Jewish residents receive social assistance from the public purse as well.

"They've been good to us. We can't complain," Kogan admitted.

But economic support from the government is only one aspect of the help the new arrivals need. When it comes to doing business, the immigrants have to learn that Germany does not function like the old country.

Connections and bribes are not as important as signed and stamped forms. And the state, while providing food and housing, will not take care of all their needs.

Jewish community leaders are forever explaining that the new immigrants have to take the initiative themselves and not rely on community leaders.

On a religious level, too, the immigrants have much to absorb. Most of them have as much learning to do about Judaism as they do about how to function in a free-market economy.

"These people know nothing about being Jewish," said Rabbi Ernst Stein, a Conservative rabbi from Berlin.

**Progress Made In Religious Sphere**

While some complain that the integration of the new immigrants is taxing the small community's resources, others note that progress has been made in the religious sphere.

Regular Friday night services have been instituted, and there even have been a few bar mitzvahs. There are hopes that the community may soon hold a Jewish wedding.

Finding a rabbi to lead the Potsdam community has been somewhat of a problem.

The community had a Lubavitch rabbi briefly, but he returned to Israel. The community now relies on the services of two Lubavitch students from New York, but the congregation is looking for a more permanent religious leader.

For the older and more-established German Jewish communities, the arrival of the immigrants has brought fundamental changes, particularly in the size of the community and its needs.

In the former West Berlin, for example, the Jewish community numbered about 6,000 before the fall of the Berlin Wall. Now it is nearly double that due to the influx of new immigrants.

Just as before World War II, when streams of Eastern European Jews arrived in Germany, there is some resentment of the new arrivals felt by the relatively richer and more-established German Jews.

But there is also some tension among the immigrants themselves. Those who arrived from the Soviet Union in the difficult years of the early 1980s consider themselves a cut above the more recent immigrants.

"These problems would be normal anywhere else," said Peter Ambros, spokesman for Berlin's Jewish community. "But because they occur here, they attract a different kind of attention."