

**MAKING HISTORY: ISRAEL AND JORDAN
DECLARE AN END TO 46 YEARS OF WAR**

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, July 25 (JTA) -- Evoking images from the Talmud and Koran, President Clinton welcomed an end to the 46-year state of war between Israel and Jordan on Monday.

At a White House ceremony, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Jordan's King Hussein and Clinton signed a declaration that officially ends the state of war between the neighboring Jewish and Arab states.

The agreement also recognizes Jordan's guardianship over Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem and guarantees Hussein a role in final-status negotiations for Israel's capital.

The White House ceremony lacked the drama of the signing of the declaration of principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization almost one year ago, according to many in attendance.

Still, there was a sense of excitement that another Arab country was moving closer toward peace with Israel. Egypt is the only Arab nation with a full peace treaty with Israel.

The signing ceremony, occurring under a sweltering, sun-splashed summer day, came less than two hours after the first public meeting between Hussein and Rabin.

The two leaders shook hands half a dozen times in public on Monday, including the moment they took to the stage in the Rose Garden.

"The Koran instructs us, 'requite evil with good and he who is your enemy will become your dearest friend.' And the Talmud teaches, 'that man is a hero that can make a friend out of a foe,'" Clinton said when introducing Hussein and Rabin.

'Friends And Heroes'

"Before us today stand friends and heroes," the president said.

Rabin praised the agreement saying, "We have today taken a major step on the road to peace. We and Jordan have chosen to speak to each other rather than to continue the state of war."

At the end of the speech, the prime minister directed some Hebrew remarks to the Israeli public.

"We are adding today another rung in the rising ladder toward the realization of the dream of peace," Rabin said.

Hussein, speaking without notes, echoed similar sentiments.

"We are on our way now, truly, towards what is normal in relations between our peoples and ourselves, and what is worthy," the king said.

The declaration is "a modest, determined beginning to bring to our region and our people the security from fear," Hussein said.

He hailed an end to "the uncertainty of every day as to how it might end, the suspicions, the bitterness, the lack of human contact."

In the declaration, Israel agreed to give

"high priority to the Jordanian historic role" in Muslim holy shrines in Jerusalem during final-status negotiations which are scheduled to begin in two years.

Both nations pledged to continue negotiations "to prepare for future bilateral cooperation, including the abolition of all economic boycotts."

Rabin and Hussein also agreed to a cooperative Israeli and Jordanian police force to combat crime, specifically drug smuggling. The agreement also calls for two new border crossings between Jordan and Israel, one in the north and one at the southern tip of Aqaba and Eilat.

Direct phone links between Jordan and Israel will be established, and the nations will link electricity grids, according to the declaration.

The two countries will also guarantee free access to third country tourists as well as accelerate development of an international air corridor between both countries.

Approximately 150 Jewish and Arab leaders as well as administration officials attended the signing ceremony.

The Israeli Embassy hosted a reception Monday evening with Rabin and leaders of the Jewish community at Washington's Mayflower Hotel. Almost 1000 people were invited to attend.

Clinton was scheduled to host Rabin and Hussein with their wives at a White House dinner after the reception.

Two lone protesters from Chicago Friends of Yesha, the Israeli settlements organization, carried signs outside the White House during the signing ceremony that read "Israel in Peace, not in Piece" and "Mr. Arafat, Jerusalem will never be your capital."

Bradley Jacobs, who has adopted the name of Chaim Mizrahi, an Israeli he says was killed earlier this year by the PLO, said he was not there protesting peace with Jordan but rather Rabin's overall approach to peace.

"There was no way we were going to let Rabin have the unified feeling of support from American Jewry," Jacobs said. "He and America should know that not all of American Jewry is behind his policy."

But more typical of Jewish reaction to the historic event was that expressed by officials of the American Zionist Movement.

"Together with all people of good will, we rejoice at the joint declaration," said AZM President Seymour Reich and Karen Rubinstein, the group's executive director. This declaration "confirms that peace is now an irresistible force in the Middle East," they said.

**ISRAEL AND AMERICAN JEWS LAUNCH
EFFORTS TO AID RWANDAN REFUGEES**
By Jeannie Rosenfeld

NEW YORK, July 25 (JTA) -- Israel and American Jewish organizations have launched separate, large-scale efforts to bring aid to the 1.2 million refugees who have fled strife-torn Rwanda into neighboring Zaire.

On Sunday, Israel dispatched to the region eight transport planes loaded with medical equip-

ment, a 77-member medical team and supplies to set up a field hospital.

It is believed to be the largest aid effort ever sent abroad from Israel to provide disaster relief.

The Israel Defense Force 120-bed field hospital will include operating and intensive care facilities, special children's care units and X-ray and emergency lighting equipment.

One of the transport planes will be fitted with giant tanks filled with thousands of gallons of fresh water, one of the most sought-after commodities in the wake of the cholera epidemic that broke out last week among the Rwandan refugees.

The field hospital and its staff is being accompanied by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and by the chief IDF medical officer, Brig. Gen. Michael Weiner. The team will spend two weeks on the Zaire-Rwanda border before being replaced by a fresh team from Israel. The Israeli presence will likely last a total of six weeks.

35 American Jewish Groups To Participate

Meanwhile, a coalition of 35 American Jewish organizations has solidified to provide many forms of assistance to the refugees, with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee acting as the overseer of the project.

A unique partnership to help the refugees has also been formed between the JDC and the African-American Institute, a multiracial, multi-ethnic organization that specializes in creating mutual understanding between the United States and Africa and developing human resources in Africa.

Around 15 black organizations will participate in the effort under the coordination of the institute. Dorothy Davis Joseph, director of public affairs at the institute, said the collaboration of the black and Jewish communities "reflects a long history of cooperation between the two groups."

Gideon Taylor, director of special projects at the JDC, said the coalition was originally assembled to organize relief for war-torn Somalia. He said the coalition had doubled in size for the current effort.

"We welcome strongly this coming together of so many organizations to deal with the desperate plight of the Rwandan refugees," said Milton Wolf, president of the JDC.

Abie Nathan, the longtime peace activist and humanitarian who was excluded from the Israeli aid mission, will participate in the American effort, according to Taylor. He had been among the first leaders of volunteer teams to go to Rwanda.

The first concrete steps in the American Jewish effort were taken last weekend with the purchase of two water-filtration units to deal with the shortage of clean water in Zaire. The units, which were purchased in Kenya and were expected to be sent to Zaire this week, can pump 50,000 liters of water a day.

A medical team was also expected to be sent to Rwanda this week. The team will most likely be sent from Ethiopia, where a JDC medical-relief program is currently operating, and be headed by an American doctor.

The JDC has ordered tents to be set up in the refugee camps as substantial centers for providing medical services and shelter.

The estimated cost of these combined efforts is \$700,000, and the addition of more projects in the coming weeks could raise the total to \$1 million. The agency was planning to take out an advertisement in The New York Times this week to raise the necessary funds.

Some \$300,000 raised by the JDC for relief in Somalia is being transferred to the Rwanda fund.

According to Taylor, the American relief effort is independent of the steps taken by the Israeli government to assist the Rwandan refugees. Colette Avital, Israeli consul general in New York, also issued an appeal last week for American Jews to join in efforts to aid the Rwandan refugees.

Although Israel and the American Jewish groups are organizing their efforts separately, Taylor said it was highly likely that the two groups "will fold into one," noting as an example the possible attachment of medical teams from both countries.

"A JDC representative in Israel is speaking with people from the Israeli army," he added.

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)

REFORM IN ISRAEL CLAIM A VICTORY WITH HIGH COURT RULING ON MARRIAGES By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, July 25 (JTA) -- In a breakthrough decision, the High Court of Justice has ruled that Israel must recognize civil marriages, including intermarriages, of Israelis and other nationals that are performed in foreign consulates.

The ruling came in response to a petition filed by the Israel Religious Action Center of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism, Israel's equivalent of the Reform movement.

The movement has called the decision the latest step "toward the breaking up of the Orthodox monopoly in Israel."

The Orthodox, for their part, are fighting the reformers in the political arena.

The Religious Action Center petition was filed on behalf of a Brazilian couple married in November 1990 in the Brazilian Embassy.

The wife, Eva Goldstein, was a Christian who married Uri Goldstein, a recent Jewish immigrant who had retained his Brazilian citizenship.

They chose to be married at the Brazilian Embassy because Jewish law in Israel dictates that only Jews may be married under Jewish law.

Since the British Mandate, foreign consulates have had the authority to marry couples who are citizens of the country represented by the consulate.

But in the Goldstein case, the Ministry of the Interior refused to recognize or register the marriage as legal. The ministry had argued that foreign consulates could not officiate at marriages where one of the spouses is Israeli.

But the court ruled that the ministry had overstepped the bounds of its authority by using its own discretion and failing to register the marriage.

Regev said the decision would help countless new immigrants from Russia, many of whom are not Jewish, who want to marry in Israel but are ineligible under the rules of the Orthodox rabbinate.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**PAYING FOR PEACE: CAN CLINTON DELIVER ON PLEDGE TO WRITE OFF JORDAN'S DEBT?**

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, July 25 (JTA) -- When Jordan's King Hussein came to Washington last month, President Clinton promised to ask Congress to forgive Jordan's \$700 million debt if there were significant strides toward peace, including a public meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In light of Monday's historic White House meeting and the unprecedented address the Israeli and Jordanian leaders were set to make to a joint session of Congress, uncertainty abounds over whether Clinton can deliver congressional support for his pledge.

Observers believe that Jordan has moved ahead unilaterally with Israel at least in part because of the potential economic payoff.

But Jordanian expectations of economic benefits resulting from reconciliation with Israel raise the larger question of whether the United States will be willing -- or able -- to fund peace in the Middle East.

One point on which all analysts agree is that times have changed significantly since Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979 -- and began to receive what has amounted to annual peace dividend checks of \$3 billion and \$2.1 billion, respectively.

Coinciding with the White House ceremony on Monday, Clinton administration officials began discussions with Capitol Hill leaders on a proposal to forgive \$200 million in Jordanian debt immediately, according to sources close to the negotiations.

The administration will ask House and Senate conferees to include the money when they reconcile differences in the foreign aid bill which has passed both chambers of Congress.

The proposal would be the first step in what White House officials hope will be a broader package.

But even if consensus emerges on Capitol Hill to forgive Jordan's debt, many analysts say budget restrictions could prevent a quick fix for Jordan's mounting debt.

Jordan Owes Some \$6.6 Billion

Jordan's debt to the United States accounts for only a fraction of its \$6.6 billion in outstanding loans, primarily from European nations. Debt payments amount to almost 30 percent of Jordan's total annual budget.

In addition to going to Congress, Clinton has pledged to ask other debtor nations to restructure and forgive much of Jordan's debt.

Clinton originally left his offer to Hussein vague, according to White House officials. Clinton had told Hussein that he would have to take significant strides toward peace with Israel, and perhaps even sign a full peace treaty, in order to get Congress on board for debt relief.

Members of Congress themselves have echoed a similar position.

Many lawmakers have said they want to see, at the minimum, a pledge for full normalization of relations between Israel and Jordan before considering debt forgiveness.

But some on Capitol Hill want Jordan to go

further -- disavowing the Arab boycott of Israel, beefing up sanctions against Iraq and agreeing never to harbor terrorists.

Those who oppose debt relief until a peace treaty is signed say Clinton's pledge amounts to a "typical administration ploy," according to one senior Capitol Hill staffer.

"You make the promise and then shove it down Congress' throat and blame Congress for the failure of the entire peace process if it doesn't go along," the staffer said, echoing the sentiment expressed by many on Capitol Hill.

In addition to circulating a preliminary proposal to forgive \$200 million of Jordan's debt, Clinton has taken other steps on the debt issue.

The Office of Management and Budget is preparing for the White House, at Clinton's request, an exact accounting of Jordan's debt.

Clinton May Ask For Jordanian Military Aid

Jordanian officials estimate their country's debt to the United States at \$900 million rather than the \$700 million the State Department lists.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the discrepancy comes from technical calculations that depend on when interest and principal of the loans would be paid.

Before Congress could vote to forgive Jordan's debt, lawmakers would have to cut spending or raise taxes to offset the bill for debt relief.

In 1992, Congress and the then-Bush White House agreed to offset any new spending by cuts in other programs or new taxes. In order to forgive Jordan's debt, therefore, the appropriations committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate must find savings or raise taxes to pay off the loans.

Clinton is also expected to ask Congress for a handsome package of military aid that would update the Jordanian army and could conceivably provide high-technology U.S. aircraft.

Many in Congress and in the Jewish community are waiting for the excitement from this week's visit to settle before they weigh in on debt forgiveness and military aid.

Capitol Hill staffers warn not to expect the so-called pro-Israel members of Congress to carry the ball on money to Jordan.

"We just finished the push for Israel's \$3 billion and Egypt's \$2.1 billion. This effort is going to have to come from members like Obey and Leahy," a senior Senator's aide said.

U.S. Rep. David Obey (D-Wisc.) serves as the chairman of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Committee. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) chairs the Senate committee where any hearings on debt forgiveness would begin.

Both Obey and Leahy refused to comment on any possible package for Jordan until after the committees meet to debate the possibility.

Their aides say hearings could start as early as next month but caution not to expect results until after the fiscal year ends Sept. 30.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which supports some form of aid to Jordan, is in the process of formulating its own policy as well as strategy on this issue. AIPAC staffers have begun consulting with members of Congress to assess the mood on the Hill before proceeding.

Most other Jewish organizations have not yet determined how active they will be on the aid-to-Jordan issue.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

FOR JEWISH DEADHEADS, IT'S A LONG, STRANGE TRIP

By Pamela Druckerman

HIGHGATE, Vt., July 25 (JTA) -- It's spiritual, it's lyrical and Jews come from all over to be a part of it. No, it's not a synagogue service: it's the Grateful Dead.

After 30 years on the road, the 1960s rock group continues to be a magnet for Jews and others searching for spiritual meaning.

For these "Deadheads" -- devotees of the band who leave behind kids, jobs, spouses and even synagogues to go "on tour" -- it is natural to cast the experience in biblical terms.

"I wouldn't say that going to a Dead show is the closest thing we have to experiencing matan Torah (the giving of the Torah), but yeah, there are aspects of that," explained Dovid, who spent six years in an Israeli yeshiva and nearly a decade in pursuit of the Dead.

A mile out of Manhattan and on the road to the band's show in Vermont earlier this month, Dovid, who asked that his last name not be used, has just turned down the music to hear tefilat haderech, the Jewish traveler's prayer.

Dovid -- an office manager -- compared the concert experience to the biblical verse in which the Jewish people saw, rather than heard, a voice coming from Mount Sinai.

"A Deadhead will not say he 'heard a concert.' He will say he 'saw a show.' It's the same imagery, the same language. I don't take these things for granted," he said.

In the backseat of the car is Susie Marcus, mother of three with a doctorate in statistics and an electric tie-dyed T-shirt. She said that following the Grateful Dead to concerts around the country is a religious experience.

"Just the way in the Torah the Jews all got together at the Temple, we all get together at the shows," said Marcus, who has been following the Dead since the 1970's and now averages 18 shows per year.

Some people have tried to take advantage of the link.

'An Immediate Bond'

Stuart Wax -- professional music manager, observant Jew and Deadhead for the past eight years -- uses his Grateful Dead connection to bring unaffiliated Jews into the fold.

"When a Deadhead meets another Deadhead it's an immediate bond. It's easy when someone has that bond to say 'come for Shabbos,'" said Wax, who regularly hosts Deadheads for chasidic-style Shabbat dinners at his Los Angeles home.

When the Dead play San Francisco, Deadheads can get tickets for Sunday night shows by coming to a "Grateful Yid Shabbos" at the local Chabad House, the outreach office of the Lubavitch chasidic sect.

Rabbi Yosef Langer, executive director of Chabad of San Francisco, said chasidic philosophy and Deadheads are a natural match.

"The people that are attracted to the Dead are looking for spirituality," said Langer. "So when you give them something from their own background that's not stiff and has spirit and drink and food, it connects them.

"We're just making Judaism fun," said

Langer, "breaking down people's stereotypes with a smile, a lavish table and an open door."

Before Rosh Hashanah one year, Langer took a shofar and 10,000 donated apples with honey to a concert, encouraging passing Jews to put on tefillin and inviting people to visit Chabad.

"Since people don't go to shuls today, we go to the people," said Langer, who has plans to host a Grateful Yid dinner at the Woodstock '94 music festival in August.

He will also hand out "Grateful Yid" T-shirts featuring a Chasid coming out of a grave, with the Hebrew caption "techiat hametim," a pun on the biblical expression for the messianic rising of the dead.

Langer said that the late Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, knew of his outreach work with Deadheads and gave it his blessing.

"The Deadheads think of themselves as a big family; this idea of roots is already there," said Langer. "All you have to do is show how to do it from a Jewish perspective.

"The approach to Chabad chasidus is 'just a little light,'" said Langer, quoting from a Grateful Dead song.

Many Jewish Deadheads are quick to point out the similarities to religious Judaism, comparing the traveling of Deadheads from show to show to the historical wandering of the Jews from nation to nation.

'Tourheads Of The Torah'

Steve Silberman, co-author of the soon-to-be-released book, "Skeleton Key: A Dictionary for Deadheads," likened the touring Deadheads to Talmud students in turn-of-the-century Russia, who would travel from town to town to hear the teachings of different rabbis.

"They were the tourheads of the Torah," Silberman explained.

For Bruce, a New York social worker who long ago abandoned his Orthodox upbringing, the Grateful Dead experience is a stand-in for the spirituality he could not find in the Jewish world.

"It sort of accomplishes what I had hoped Judaism would accomplish," said Bruce, who said he often runs into old yeshiva buddies at shows.

The band itself acknowledges the influence of Jewish music and thought, including Kabbalah and klezmer, among other religious traditions.

Publicist Dennis McNally said there are religious aspects to the band's elaborate improvisational style. "They are psychically open when they're playing," he explained, "using the music as a vehicle to get to a transcendent state."

McNally said the band has always had a disproportionately large Jewish following, possibly because one of its first East Coast shows was on Long Island, which has a large Jewish population.

Although drummer Mickey Hart is the only band member who is Jewish, the group holds a Passover seder backstage each spring.

Hart's religiosity -- at least among observant Deadheads -- is the subject of much ritual lore.

Many claim that the shows around Passover and Rosh Hashanah are in the New York area so that Mickey can be with his mother for the holidays.

Spokesman McNally denied the report.

"That's a folk tale," he said.