

**RABIN TO ASSAD: A PUBLIC HANDSHAKE
WOULD ADVANCE STALLED NEGOTIATIONS**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is calling on Syrian President Hafez Assad to engage in high-profile, direct negotiations with Israel in order to advance the two countries' long-stalled peace talks.

No progress will be made with Syria unless Assad takes a series of public steps to persuade the Israeli public of his desire to make peace, Rabin said following a 90-minute summit meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held Sunday at the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Mubarak, Rabin said his high-profile meetings with Jordan's King Hussein in Washington last week were just the sort of confidence-building steps that Assad would have to take to get the Israeli-Syrian negotiations back on track.

Rabin said he would like to see Assad express greater flexibility on the Golan Heights issue, "or a handshake in public, such as the handshake with King Hussein on the White House lawn last week. Or even something less."

The Rabin-Mubarak meeting -- which came only days after Israel and Jordan signed the Washington Declaration ending 46 years of hostilities between the two countries -- focused on finding ways to score a success in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations.

Those negotiations have been stalled for months over a Syrian insistence that Israel withdraw entirely from the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Damascus.

Israel has been offering a phased withdrawal, but first wants a Syrian commitment to a "full" peace with Israel that will include open borders, free trade and a full exchange of ambassadors.

During Sunday's news conference, Rabin said he understood Israel would have to meet "certain requirements" made by Syria to get the negotiations moving again, but he would not say what those requirements were.

Mubarak Believes Deal With Syria Is Near

Mubarak told reporters that he had discerned during his personal meetings with Assad greater flexibility on the part of the Syrian president where the Israeli talks were concerned.

"I cannot speak in the name of Assad, but I know that Syria is sincerely interested in a peace agreement with Israel," Mubarak said. He also voiced the hope that Israel and Syria would reach an agreement before the end of the year.

Both he and Rabin said they were looking forward to another visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who in his previous rounds of shuttle diplomacy has acted as go-between for Rabin and Assad, but has to date been unable to get the talks re-ignited.

Christopher is scheduled to return to the region in mid-August.

The Rabin-Mubarak meeting took place a day after the Egyptian president flew to Saudi Arabia for unscheduled talks with King Fahd.

Mubarak was expected to send an emissary to Damascus to brief Assad on his discussions with Rabin in advance of Christopher's return to the region.

Before leaving Jerusalem, Rabin met alone with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and reportedly invited him along on the trip to Taba.

But Peres declined the invitation, citing urgent work in Jerusalem and adding that Rabin would be meeting alone with Mubarak in any event.

The two men are reportedly undergoing a period of tension in their long and frequently strained relationship.

During his trip to Washington last week, Rabin, in conversations and briefings, reportedly belittled Peres' contribution to the diplomatic breakthrough with Jordan. In his public addresses, Rabin barely mentioned the foreign minister, who is widely regarded as the main architect of the government's peace initiatives.

Peres was so hurt that at one stage he apparently told his confidants he was considering resigning.

Labor Party sources said that despite the current tension, they expected the two men would continue working together in relative harmony on the peace process.

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

**FROM NEW YORK TO PARIS AND BEYOND:
JEWISH WORLD SHIFTS TO STATE OF ALERT**
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA) -- Jewish institutions throughout the world have gone on a high state of alert in the wake of recent terrorist bombings in Buenos Aires and London.

From New York to Los Angeles, from Paris to Sydney, Australia, Israeli embassies and consulates as well as local Jewish community organizations have been meeting with police officials to work out security arrangements in an effort to prevent any further attacks on Jewish targets.

The precautions seek to prevent a recurrence of the July 18 car bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires that claimed the lives of about 100 people and left more than 200 wounded.

Two bombings in London that occurred one week later within a 12-hour period on July 26 and 27 -- the first striking at the Israeli Embassy, the second targeting the offices of the Joint Israel Appeal -- gave added impetus to the implementation of tightly drawn security at Jewish institutions throughout the world.

While no suspects have yet been captured, it is widely believed that responsibility for the bombings rests with Islamic fundamentalist groups opposed to Israel's peace initiatives with its Arab neighbors.

A day after the second London bombing, police in New York oversaw the erection of concrete barriers outside the Israeli Consulate and the Israeli Mission to the United Nations.

The barriers were an immediate response to

threats made against the Israeli institutions. Security was also tightened at more than a dozen other New York locations where Israelis or Jewish groups maintain offices.

In addition, city and state police leaders held a meeting July 28 in New York with representatives of 100 Jewish organizations to discuss implementing stringent protective measures to foil any attempted terrorist attacks.

Representatives of the Port Authority of New York were also present to discuss security measures at points of entrance and exit from the city, and to provide assurances that protection would be kept at a maximum at all facilities of Israel's El Al Airlines.

Michael Miller, the executive director of the New York Jewish Community Relations Council, said he was very impressed by the turnout of 100 separate groups on just 24 hours' notice and by the sense of cooperation on the security matter.

"The group was very, very broad. It was really very, very grass-roots oriented, with people from Crown Heights and Williamsburg, Queens neighborhoods, the major Israel/Jewish-related organizations, including members of the JCRC and others," he said.

Miller said security was "already stepped up and will be even more tightened" in the New York area where Jewish organizations are based.

He referred the participants at the meeting to a security alert the JCRC issued two weeks ago in the immediate aftermath of the bombing of the Buenos Aires Jewish community center.

'Everybody Is Very Concerned'

Measures listed on the alert included surveillance of visitors, mail and packages; the need to provide employee education on security measures; and the importance of engaging in police liaison work.

At the state level, Suri Kassirer, Gov. Mario Cuomo's special representative to the Jewish community, said the governor was paying great attention to security needs at Jewish and Israeli sites. "The governor spoke to the Israeli consul general. Everybody is very concerned" about providing adequate security, she said.

Miller said that last week "there was a meeting between the top police brass and the borough commanders. The commanders are supposed to be contacting their precinct commanders to report back to the chiefs regarding the monitoring of the Jewish communities within their districts."

He added that the July 28 meeting between Jewish and city officials "was an important symbol that the city administration and the police have an abiding concern for all New Yorkers and especially for Jewish New Yorkers during this period of difficulty and stress."

In Los Angeles, police have been patrolling Jewish institutions more frequently and in greater strength, according to Rabbi Gary Greenebaum of the American Jewish Committee. Greenebaum is a member and immediate past president of the Los Angeles Police Commission.

At the central Jewish community building, which houses the Jewish Federation Council, its agencies and other Jewish organizations, added security measures were implemented following a meeting of the groups' leadership.

As a result of the new measures, no one will

be allowed to park in front of the building, employees and visitors will have to wear clear identifications, and police will maintain a constant surveillance, said Gary Wexler, the federation's communications director.

The federation and the Anti-Defamation League are planning security seminars for Jewish institutions to reinforce instructions first issued during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

At the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, "we're geared for perimeter security," said the organization's associate dean, Rabbi Abraham Cooper.

He urged American Jews to "signal to terrorists that if they want to get at Israel through the Diaspora, this will backfire."

The Buenos Aires and London bombings have also prompted Jewish community leaders in locations throughout the world to take added security measures.

Reports from Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Australia indicate that Israeli and local Jewish centers have been working closely with government authorities to prevent any further terrorist bombings.

'No Security Can Be 100 Percent Tight'

In France, Jean Kahn, the head of CRIF, the umbrella organization representing French Jewish organizations, met last week with the head of the Paris police force and with an assistant to Interior Minister Charles Pasqua to discuss additional security at Jewish locations.

"The French authorities are doing their best to prevent any problem," Kahn said in an interview. "But no security can be 100 percent tight."

Kahn called on all French Jewish organizations and synagogues to ask their members to be on the alert and not to assemble outside buildings and synagogues once meetings or prayers are over.

In Latin America, where Jewish communities are feeling particularly vulnerable in the wake of the Buenos Aires attack, Jewish leaders are consulting with government officials to ensure maximum protection against any future attacks.

Adding to fears in the region was last month's downing of a Panamanian commuter plane, in which 12 of the 21 victims were Jewish. Islamic fundamentalists claimed responsibility for the bomb that caused the plane crash, but it is still uncertain whether the attack was politically motivated or linked to Colombian drug dealers.

In Brazil, Israel Levin, president of the country's Jewish Federation, met with a state security official on the same day that the Buenos Aires attack took place. Since that time, there has been police protection in every location where Jews gather.

There are more than 40 organizations and institutions being watched, according to Alberto Milkewitz, institutional director of the Jewish Federation of Sao Paulo. There have been no threats or incidents in Brazil, but just as in other locations throughout the world, there is much fear within the community.

As Milkewitz put it, "We don't know when, where, who is the enemy. We don't know how to deal with a war that is not a war."

(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents Tom Tugend in Los Angeles, Michel Di Paz in Paris and Rochelle Saidel in Sao Paulo.)

SECURITY COUNCIL CONDEMNS BOMBINGS BUT OMITTS MENTION OF JEWS AND ISRAEL

By Larry Yudelson

UNITED NATIONS, July 31 (JTA) -- Bowing to pressure from non-aligned nations, the U.N. Security Council has issued a statement that condemns recent terrorist bombings but refuses to acknowledge that they were targeted at Jewish and Israeli institutions.

The statement, read by Security Council President Jamsheed Marker of Pakistan last Friday, followed a meeting where Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella reported on the July 18 bombing of the building housing Argentina's Jewish communal institutions.

More than 100 people were killed in the blast.

The informal consultation was called by Argentina and by Great Britain. Two car bombs in London last week damaged the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish fund-raising organization, injuring nearly two dozens individuals.

A draft statement circulated early last week specifically mentioned the Israelite Association for Mutual Assistance in Buenos Aires and the Israeli Embassy in London as the targets, and expressed solidarity with the victims of the attacks.

But as approved by consensus last Friday, the statement expressed "sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families," as well as to the people and governments of Argentina and of the United Kingdom. Jews and Israel are not mentioned.

This bowdlerization of the statement came at the behest of the non-aligned states, represented in the Security Council by Pakistan, according to U.N. sources.

Israeli Envoy Expresses Disappointment

In its statement on the recent bombings, the Security Council demanded "an immediate end to all such terrorist attacks," and stressed "the need to strengthen international cooperation in order to take full and effective measures to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of terrorism, which affect the international community as whole."

Israeli, American and Argentine officials have accused Iran of sponsoring these terror attacks. Teheran has denied involvement.

In a meeting last week with his Israeli counterpart, Emilio Cardenas, Argentina's ambassador to the United Nations, said that as the investigation of the July 18 attack continued, his country would seek a formal Security Council resolution condemning the blast and those responsible.

The Israeli ambassador, Gad Ya'acobi, meanwhile, expressed disappointment at "the deletion of the explicit reminder that the terror activities in Buenos Aires and in London were aimed against Jewish targets, Jewish communities, and the Embassy of Israel in London."

"This language is an escape by those who are not ready to fight aggressively against this international threat to stability and peace," he said. "The deletion of the references to the targets is unfair, and it causes damage to the moral position and standing of the Security Council on other matters."

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wie-

senthal Center, issued a statement condemning the Security Council for refusing to identify Jews as the principal targets of the recent attacks.

"The council's statement shows that despite the 'new world order,' the old standard vis-a-vis Israel and the Jewish people is alive and well at the United Nations," he said.

POPE NAMES WALDHEIM A 'PAPAL KNIGHT'; MOVE PERPLEXES MANY IN JEWISH WORLD

By Pamela Druckerman

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA) -- With little fanfare from the international community, Pope John Paul II has named Kurt Waldheim a "papal knight."

Reportedly praising Waldheim for "safeguarding human rights" during his term as secretary-general of the United Nations from 1972 to 1981, Donato Squicciarini, the papal nuncio to Austria, conferred the honor at the Vatican Embassy in Vienna.

In a July 6 ceremony, Waldheim was made a member of the Ordine Piano, an order of knights named directly by the pope.

Waldheim, the former president of Austria, was a Nazi intelligence officer stationed in the Balkans during World War II. He has been implicated in the deportations of Jews and reprisal killings of anti-Nazi partisans in the region.

In 1987, Waldheim was barred from visiting the United States because of his wartime activities. In June 1987, the pope became the only Western leader to receive Waldheim as a head of state.

The pope's 1987 meeting with Waldheim dismayed many Catholic leaders as well as Jews.

Waldheim's knighting, which came less than a year after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel, perplexed and dismayed many in the Jewish world.

"Why do it now, when he knows it's an affront to the Jewish community?" asked Kent Schiner, international president of B'nai B'rith.

"On one hand he has extended the olive branch, and on the other hand he does something like this," Schiner said of the pope.

Some attributed the knighting to the strength of the Catholic hierarchy within Austria, a predominantly Catholic country.

"There are a lot of competing interests," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Foxman nevertheless deplored the action.

"It's insulting to the victims of Nazism," said Foxman. "If there is a way to undo this, I hope they will do so."

The knighting reportedly received little play in the Italian media and was not formally announced by the Vatican.

The International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, the organized Jewish community's main liaison with the Vatican, faxed a letter to the Vatican last week asking for an explanation for the knighting. The group has not yet received a reply.

Monsignor Francis Maniscalco, spokesman for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, said the honor should be seen in a limited context: "I would see the knighthood as something done for an individual without any implication intended for such larger issues as Catholic-Jewish relations."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**STAKING OUT THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY, WIESENTHAL CENTER OPENS FILM BRANCH**
By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, July 31 (JTA) -- The Simon Wiesenthal Center is staking out a stretch of the information highway to put major events in the 3,500 years of Jewish history on theater screens, television and videocassettes.

"The goal of our new project is to use advanced visual and documentary technologies to reach the young, the unaffiliated, who never go to a synagogue, the disenfranchised and the people living in the most remote Jewish communities in the world," says Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the Wiesenthal Center.

The center's new division is Moriah Films, a name that tradition identifies as the mount where Abraham was ordered to sacrifice Isaac, thus marking "the beginning of Jewish history," Hier says.

On the first floor of the Wiesenthal Center, the center's original Holocaust museum, since superseded by the Museum of Tolerance, has been converted into a small-scale Hollywood studio, where a staff of 11 is toiling to complete Moriah's premier production.

Titled "Liberation," the film's scope is outlined by Hier:

"There are excellent documentaries on the Holocaust and excellent documentaries on the Allied liberation of Europe. There is no single film, however, that shows the two simultaneous events in parallel, and in a format and time frame that can be used, for instance, in public school classes."

Indeed, the time line of the two events shows the same starting date. In January 1942, British and American commanders started their initial planning for the invasion of Europe, while in Berlin, the Nazis evolved the formal plan for the Final Solution for the Jews at the Wannsee Conference.

After viewing some 100,000 feet of documentary clips from archives in half a dozen countries, the producers and editors of "Liberation" are racing to complete the 100-minute documentary.

Losing One War But Winning The Other

The film dramatically illustrates that while Adolf Hitler was losing the war on the fighting fronts, he was winning his war against the Jews.

On a tour of the Moriah studio, Hier, bubbly as a new father, discusses his rationale and plans for Moriah Films.

"There has recently been a revolution in the publication of wonderful books on Judaism and Jewish civilization, but there has been no such breakthrough in the mass-media field, which speaks the language of our time," he says.

"The Jewish community is not producing films on Jewish history, and neither is Hollywood or Israel. When a Jew shops at the new media shelf, he must be able to find products on the Jewish experience," Hier says.

For a fledgling studio mogul, Hier, together with his associates, does not have a bad track record. On his first outing, in 1981, the Wiesenthal Center's "Genocide," narrated by Orson Welles and Elizabeth Taylor, won an Oscar for best documentary.

A more specialized film, "Echoes That Remain," chronicling the shtetl life of prewar Eastern Europe, was named best documentary at the Houston International Film Festival in 1990.

For "Liberation," which will have its world premiere Sept. 8 at the Deauville Film Festival in France, Hier has reassembled much of the talent that created the two earlier films.

The credits include British filmmaker and graphic designer Arnold Schwartzman as director and co-producer, Richard Trank of the Wiesenthal Center as executive producer, the distinguished British historian Martin Gilbert as co-writer, and Carl Davis for the musical score. Hier is the co-producer and co-writer.

As in the previous films, prominent screen and stage names have donated their services as narrators of the film, including Whoopi Goldberg and British actors Ben Kingsley, Patrick Stewart, Miriam Margolyes and Jean Boht.

"Liberation" is expected to be the only newly produced film at the Deauville Festival, sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as a celebration of World War II Hollywood movies.

The American premiere is scheduled for Oct. 18 in Los Angeles; Dec. 7 in London and later in December in Paris.

'People Are Starved' For Jewish Material

Although news of "Liberation" has so far spread only by word of mouth, requests for screenings already have been received from Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Philadelphia and New York, according to Hier.

"People are starved for visual Jewish material," he says.

The total budget for "Liberation" is \$650,000, a pittance by Hollywood standards.

"Twentieth Century Fox spent that much on a party to launch Arnold Schwarzenegger's new film, 'True Lies,'" says Trank of the Wiesenthal Center. "To produce a television commercial for Coke or British Airways costs well over \$1 million."

Despite the modest figure, "Liberation" uses quite advanced technology, including the same six-channel sound system on CD-Rom used by Steven Spielberg in "Jurassic Park" and "Schindler's List."

The center plans to release the original "Liberation" score on a compact disc, and by the end of the year, the documentary will be reformatted for video and television in time for wide-spread use next May for the 50th anniversary of V-E Day, Hier hopes.

Current plans call for a new Moriah production every 16 months, says Hier, and he hopes to knock \$100,000 off the current \$650,000 tab by buying the film equipment that is now being rented.

Given the Wiesenthal Center's main focus, productions in the immediate future will most likely deal with the Holocaust and immediate postwar period, such as the story of the Brichah, the illegal immigration to Palestine between 1945 and 1948.

However, Moriah's "mandate" extends to the entire Jewish experience, says Hier, as he throws out the idea of a film on Moses Maimonides, the great philosopher and rabbinic authority of the Middle Ages.