

**ACROSS LAND AND SEA: HISTORY MARCHES FROM ISRAEL TO JORDAN AND BACK AGAIN**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- This week marked a series of firsts in Israeli-Jordanian relations.

On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan, the brother of King Hussein, cut a white ribbon to inaugurate the first border crossing between the two countries.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremonies, Rabin set another precedent by becoming the first Israeli prime minister to publicly set foot on Jordanian soil.

The historic events came exactly two weeks after Rabin and King Hussein signed the Washington Declaration, officially ending 46 years of Israeli-Jordanian hostilities.

The July 25 declaration made the border crossing and other advances in Israeli-Jordanian relations possible.

Though Hussein was absent from Monday's ceremonies, the king later hosted Rabin and other Israeli leaders at a lunch at his winter palace on the Aqaba seashore.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was in the Middle East this week in an attempt to advance the stalled Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations, shared the rostrum with Rabin and Hassan during the border-opening ceremonies.

About 1,000 Israelis and Jordanians witnessed the historic event, which took place some two miles north of Eilat.

Among those present at the ceremonies were Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak, former Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Judge Meir Shamgar, the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

In a brief address, Rabin said it was significant that the spot chosen for the crossing point had been a minefield until two days earlier, when the reminders of the 46-year-long official state of war between Israel and Jordan were hastily cleared away.

'We Cannot Wait Even One Day More'

"Friends say to us, 'The pace of events is too fast. We cannot keep up. Wait a moment,' " he told the gathering, which, along with government officials and reporters, included Israeli and Jordanian war veterans.

Addressing Hassan, Rabin then added, "Your Royal Highness, our friends in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, we have waited 46 years. We have gone through war, pain and suffering. To prevent further loss and so on, we cannot wait even one day more."

Hassan, who quoted the Bible in Hebrew during his speech, reiterated a biblical injunction to "turn the valley of troubles into a gate of hope."

For now, only foreign tourists and Israelis with foreign passports will be able to use the newly opened crossing to travel between the two countries. Israeli and Jordanian citizens will have

to wait for a formal peace treaty before being allowed free travel between the two countries.

After the lunch hosted by the Jordanian king, Hussein and Rabin held a joint news conference at which they said plans were under way for a meeting of Israeli, Jordanian and Egyptian officials that would deal with advancing the regional peace process.

Hussein said he had received several invitations to visit Israel, but had not yet decided on a date for the trip.

One invitation to visit Jerusalem was presented to Hussein the day before, when President Ezer Weizman inaugurated the first direct phone links between Israel and Jordan with a call to the Jordanian king.

During the call, Weizman greeted the king in Arabic, adding, "You have an open invitation to Jerusalem. (Let us know) within two hours of takeoff time, any time."

After the lunch, Hussein took Rabin and his other guests on a short cruise across the Gulf of Aqaba on his royal yacht, named "Haya," the Arabic word for life.

Hussein set another history-making first when his yacht, accompanied by a flotilla of Israeli navy and pleasure boats, entered Israeli waters.

Meanwhile, Israel reportedly began transferring about 140 million cubic feet of water from the Yarmuk River to Jordan this week. The gift, valued at some \$700,000, represents about 1 percent of Jordan's annual water usage.

The transfer, made at Rabin's request, to serve as a gesture to Hussein, was aimed at temporarily easing Jordan's severe water shortages.

CLINTON TO TAP JEWISH SPECIALIST TO SERVE AS NEXT AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL
By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- Martin Indyk, the Clinton administration's point man on Middle East issues and a former American Israel Public Affairs Committee official, will be tapped as the next U.S. ambassador to Israel, according to White House and American Jewish sources.

Indyk, who currently serves as National Security Council adviser on the Middle East, would become the first Jewish ambassador to Israel.

He would replace Ambassador Edward Djerejian, who recently left the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv, after serving only seven months in the post, to head a public policy institute at Rice University in Texas.

Known as a staunch supporter of Israel, Indyk served as the founding executive director of the influential Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

He has served on the administration's team for the Middle East peace talks and is, perhaps, best known for his strategy for containing Iran and Iraq through strong U.S. policy against each nation.

The Australian-born Indyk became a U.S.

citizen just before he was appointed at the outset of the Clinton administration. White House officials began contacting Jewish organizations last weekend to inform them of the decision to nominate Indyk, according to sources.

Around the same time, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the forthcoming nomination at their first meeting on Saturday during the secretary's trip to the Middle East.

Christopher refused to confirm the news, instead deferring to the White House so as not to pre-empt any White House announcements.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Christopher said that Indyk "is very highly regarded" by both himself and the president.

AIPAC President Steve Grossman praised Indyk, who worked as a consultant for the pro-Israel lobby for about a nine-month stint in the mid-1980s.

"Martin's encyclopedic knowledge of the region, his credibility at the highest level of government and his unwavering commitment to a strong and secure U.S.-Israel relationship make him the perfect choice for this position," Grossman said.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations also praised Indyk, saying, "This is a very positive statement and an acknowledgement of his role and talents."

Although many Jewish leaders are praising the expected nomination, Indyk's loss at the White House comes at a critical time for Israeli interests and Middle East peace.

No candidates for Indyk's replacement in the administration have been named.

Even if the White House acts soon, Indyk is not expected to assume the post until after Senate confirmation hearings in the fall.

SIX MONTHS AFTER THE HEBRON MASSACRE, OBSERVER TEAM PACKS UP AND HEADS HOME By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- With its three-month mission completed, the international observer force that was dispatched to Hebron in the spring officially took its leave of the troubled West Bank town this week.

About 100 members of the force flew home on Monday, leaving behind a skeleton staff to sell off its equipment or donate it to local charities.

Lt. Col. Bjarno Sorensen, a member of the Danish army who served as spokesman for the force -- known officially as the Temporary International Presence in Hebron -- said Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat had asked for an extension of the force's mission, but Israeli officials had rejected any extension.

Sorensen added that the force would not have remained, even if both sides had requested it, unless Israel and the Palestinians agreed to give the force more powers.

The unarmed 114-member observer force, recruited from Norway, Denmark and Italy, arrived in Hebron on May 8 for a three-month period, which was renewable if both Israel and the Palestinians agreed to it.

The presence of an international observer team was agreed to by Israel and the PLO in late March following the Feb. 25 slaying of 29 Pales-

tinians at a Hebron mosque by Israeli settler Dr. Baruch Goldstein.

The agreement on the presence of an international team of observers had paved the way for the resumption of Israeli-PLO negotiations, which the Palestinians had suspended immediately after the Hebron massacre.

Palestinians, who had wanted the force to protect them from additional attacks by Israeli militants, have been critical of the observer force because it could only observe and report on clashes in Hebron, which has been a hotbed of unrest since the massacre.

In June, frustrated members of the force said they were considering an early end to their mission because they felt they were not accomplishing anything.

However, there has been a decrease in clashes within Hebron over the last three months.

And Sorensen said he thought the international force had "definitely lowered the tension" in Hebron.

"Before we came here, there were no official meetings between the PLO and the Israelis," he said. "Now they have a Hebron committee, and we hope this will continue after we have left."

U.S. JEWS TOUT WEIZMAN FOR PREMIER By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- President Ezer Weizman is being touted by some American Jewish leaders as a possible candidate for prime minister in 1996, according to Israeli press reports.

New York attorney Leon Charney, who has close ties to Israeli leaders, recently told Israel Radio he was approached by many people about the idea, apparently while participating in an Israel-Diaspora dialogue with the president in June.

"Anything Weizman has done for the State of Israel has been successful," Charney told the Jerusalem Post, "founding the modern air force, hero of the Six-Day War, defense minister and primary mover of the Camp David peace accords."

Charney also referred to Weizman's "unique and special relationship with Arab leaders," adding that the president's popularity has risen above 80 percent.

"I assume if he did become prime minister he'd make an excellent one," he said.

Beit Hanassi, the president's office, has reportedly dismissed the prospect as ridiculous.

U.S. JETS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL, AS PROMISED By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- A first group of six F-16 fighter jets that the United States promised to deliver to Israel arrived at an Israeli air force base last week.

The six planes were part of a larger package of 50 F-16's that will be delivered in stages over the coming months.

The modern fighter jets, which come from U.S. Air Force surplus stocks, were promised by the United States in appreciation for Israel's cooperation with the allied forces during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

During the war, Israel refrained from attacking Iraq in retaliation for a series of Scud missile attacks on Israeli civilian populations.

JDC RECEIVES OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO PLEA FOR AID TO RWANDAN REFUGEES

By Jeannie Rosenfeld

NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- After only one week of fund-raising efforts, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has received over \$300,000 in donations to aid refugees fleeing strife-ridden Rwanda.

The overwhelming response both in volume and sum of contributions surpasses the results of previous "open mailbox" funds, according to JDC spokesman Amir Shaviv.

He attributed the response at least in part to two full-page ads placed by the JDC late last month in The New York Times.

More than 2,500 individual donations have been received from Jews and non-Jews. The largest single contribution was \$10,000, made by a Washington law firm.

"The victims are so innocent, so helpless, and the tragedy has been delivered to American living rooms by the media," said Shaviv, speculating on what he called the "amazing" success of the effort.

For many donors, the plight of the Rwandan refugees evokes memories of their own suffering.

One Holocaust survivor recalled the second chance he was given due to the kindness of others. "I was helped by JDC after World War II in Europe (and) when I came to America," he wrote, thanking JDC and urging the group to "please help the Rwandan people."

Similarly, a former Cambodian refugee wrote, "I know exactly how they need help. I was myself a refugee in Thailand before coming to the United States. I was crying out for help."

Shaviv suggested that the partnership forged last month between black and Jewish organizations to provide relief to the refugees helped broaden the spectrum of contributors, because people recognize the endeavor as "a real human effort."

The JDC is working on this effort with 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.

Coordinating With 15 Black Organizations

Some 15 black organizations are participating in the project under the coordination of the institute.

A JDC medical team that was previously operating in Ethiopia is now at work in Zaire, where many of the Rwandan refugees have fled. The group is conveying to JDC officials here what the greatest needs of the refugees are so that the funds can be spent appropriately.

In a statement, the JDC quoted Dr. Rick Hodes, who heads the five-person medical team, describing the situation in the refugee camps.

"Imagine a Woodstock lasting 50 miles; over a million refugees living over 20 miles from a water source, the stench of dying bodies, cholera," said Hodes.

One of the most critical needs of the refugees is purified water, according to Hodes. Several water points have been established by the Red Cross and other relief organizations, but hundreds more are needed.

Hodes stressed that saving a life is often as simple as giving some fresh water or administering I.V., but that many still die because helping hands and materials are so lacking.

Upon request of the medical team, JDC is purchasing, among other medications, Cypro, a strong antibiotic which is sometimes called the "wonder drug" because of the broad range of conditions it can treat.

Hodes said that each doctor on the JDC team saves 15-30 people a day "who would otherwise die where they are." But because doctors in Zaire are limited, the doctors can only see to the sickest people. Two more biomedical units are expected to be sent to Zaire, so that more lives can be saved each day.

500 tents have been purchased by JDC and will be shipped to Rwanda this week. The tents will service refugees who are saved at rest and shelter stations on their way back to Rwanda.

Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Al Gore, who is currently visiting the area to witness first-hand the situation and volunteer her help, spent an hour with the JDC medical team in Goma, Zaire, on Monday.

JDC President Milton Wolf welcomed Gore's visit as "an important indication of the sensitivity of the American public to the terrible plight of the Rwandan people."

ATOP THE ASHES OF A BURNT MOSCOW SITE, GROUND IS BROKEN FOR A NEW SYNAGOGUE

By Lisa Glazer

MOSCOW, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- Russians, Israelis, Americans and Argentineans participated recently at groundbreaking ceremonies for an ambitious new building to replace a synagogue destroyed by fire late last year.

"Our goal is to create not just a synagogue but a community center," said Rabbi Berel Lazar, the head rabbi of the synagogue, which is run by the Chabad movement of the Lubavitch Chasidim. "This is urgent, and we're turning to Jewish people from all over the world for support."

The Aug. 2 groundbreaking was attended by about 250 people, including Israeli Chief Ashkenazic Rabbi Yisrael Lau; U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering; Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov; and Yaakov Elztain, an Argentinean entrepreneur who got his first business break in Russia and who has contributed about \$1 million to a new building fund for the synagogue and community center.

The new building will rise from the site of the remains of the Marina Roscha Synagogue, which was built in 1926 and devastated by a fire late in December 1993.

The cause of the fire remains unknown. It is widely believed to have been caused by either arson or faulty wiring, but a final answer has not yet been provided by fire investigators.

"In the beginning, the city was trying not to have a fire investigation, but then there was pressure from abroad," said Lazar. "Since then, the investigation has been going very slowly and with little result. The city feels that if they do too much investigating, it will bring out anti-Semitism" among members of the local community.

Lazar said the synagogue and community center, which he hopes will be completed within two years, will house a youth center, a gym and library, which will help attract young Jews.

BUENOS AIRES FAMILIES CONTINUE TO MOURN THEIR LOST LOVED ONES

By Raul Kollmann

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- Though most of the world's attention has shifted away from the deadly explosion that rocked Argentina's Jewish community last month, the families of the victims are as focused as ever on the tragedy.

The Buenos Aires Association of Psychology has been providing counseling to the families of the 99 individuals who perished, as well as to the lucky survivors of the July 18 blast that ripped through the seven-story building housing the Jewish community headquarters.

"One of the most common symptoms we find is paralysis, a lack of reaction," Alicia Gamondi, the coordinator of the association, said of the survivors. "In these situations, there is no warning, nothing to prepare them for what is about to happen.

"We have had many cases with nightmares, which is a way of expressing anguish. Also many have felt pain and become ill, thus physically revealing the tremendous impact" the bombing had on them, Gamondi added.

In the wake of the blast, AMIA also provided psychologists, doctors, rabbis and priests to help the victims' relatives.

These professionals were with the relatives when they were informed that a loved one had died, when they went to the city morgue to identify bodies, and when they returned home to mourn their loss.

Among the families continuing to mourn is the family of Noemi Reisfeld.

She was laid to rest in a tomb in section 121 at a local Jewish cemetery. Written on the tombstone were these simple words: "Noemi Reisfeld, Dead at 36."

Reisfeld was among the 68 Jewish victims of the terrorist bombing that also claimed the lives of 31 non-Jews.

Before the explosion, Reisfeld had worked at the social assistance department of the AMIA, the Jewish community's 100-year-old main social service agency, where she helped the aged and the handicapped.

Lived In Israel And Mexico

In 1976, when the military dictatorship was in power in Argentina, Reisfeld had to leave the country because of her political views. She lived in Israel and in Mexico, got married and had two daughters. She returned to Buenos Aires when democracy was restored.

Life was not easy for Reisfeld. She was an employee in a government office, and in the evening attended university to become a social worker. She sold clothes on weekends to help make ends meet.

In spite of her financial difficulties, she maintained Jewish traditions and managed to send her children to a good Jewish school.

Following her graduation five years ago, she started her work at AMIA, where those she helped were later to be among the mourners at her funeral.

"She never wanted to be held up as an example," said her brother Daniel. "She just wanted to live up to what she believed to be right. But now, looking back, I realize she was an

example. But it's too late to tell her."

The children of the victims, in particular, have been under great emotional strain in the weeks since the blast occurred.

Gamondi said her organization has been organizing meetings with the children to give them a chance to talk openly about their feelings.

Among those being helped by AMIA psychologists is 22-year-old Nora Faigelson, who could well have been on the list of casualties.

She had lost her job on the Friday before the explosion. On the fateful day of the blast, she was at an employment office on the fourth floor of the Jewish community building.

After she left the office, Faigelson pressed the button to call the elevator. After two minutes had elapsed and the elevator still had not come, she started walking down the stairs. That was when the explosion ripped the building apart.

Some 20 hours passed before someone found her wandering the streets of Buenos Aires. She remembered neither her home address nor how she had gotten to where she was.

Faigelson, who had been on the list of those missing, now has little recollection of what happened when the bomb went off.

"After the explosion, a man signaled to me that I should follow him. So I did, trying to protect my head with my hands," she said recently. "When everything had quieted down, I got out through a hole I saw in the rubble. That's all I remember."

Today, recovering at home from the state of shock she suffered, she is still at a loss to explain what happened. An AMIA psychiatrist and a doctor are assisting her on the road to recovery.

Fate was on Nora's side because the elevator was slow to arrive. But others, like the Velazquez family, were not so lucky.

They lived across the street from the community headquarters, and by chance the mother and one of the children were having breakfast by the window when the bomb went off. The explosion put an end to their lives.

Horacio Velazquez, the father, and his two surviving children, Diego and Fernanda, lost two members of their family and their home.

"I only hope they find the perpetrators," the grieving father said.

NEW YORK ATTORNEY TO INVEST IN DAVAR?

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8 (JTA) -- New York attorney Leon Charney met for four hours this week with staff members of the daily newspaper Davar to tell them of his interest in joining them in their planned buyout of the newspaper from its current owner, the Histadrut labor federation.

Charney has confirmed that he agreed to be a "strategic partner -- on condition that a full audit is conducted into the paper's financial situation."

He said that he would invest in the newspaper and advise the workers, while the journalists would run and manage it.

Haim Ramon, the newly elected secretary-general of the Histadrut, announced shortly after his election that he thought the trade union federation should divest itself of the money-losing publication, which has steadily been losing readership in recent years.