

**PLO OFFICIAL URGES ISRAEL'S DEMISE;
RABIN CALLS THE REMARK 'UNTHINKABLE'**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Farouk Kaddoumi, the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Tunis-based Foreign Affairs Department, has called for the annihilation of Israel.

Israel's ITIM News Agency quoted a radio address broadcast over a PLO station on Monday in which Kaddoumi, without mentioning Israel by name, said:

"There is a state which was established through historical force and it must be destroyed. This is the Palestinian way. They seized our land. The refugees must return to their land."

Kaddoumi, a member of the PLO's executive committee, added that the Palestinians would not "give up on one grain of sand of the Palestinian land."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who met with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza on Wednesday, lashed out against Kaddoumi's remarks during a joint news conference following the meeting.

"We cannot accept that a senior man in the leadership of the PLO rises up and speaks against the fact of the existence of the State of Israel. It is unthinkable, and if repeated, it will be a serious obstacle to the progress" of negotiations with the PLO, Rabin said.

When Arafat and other members of the ruling Palestinian governing authority recently transferred their headquarters from Tunis to the Gaza Strip and the Jericho enclave in the West Bank, Kaddoumi remained in Tunis.

Under the terms of the declaration of principles signed by Israel and the PLO last September, the Palestinians are barred from establishing direct relations with foreign countries. As a result, the PLO has been maintaining its diplomatic office in Tunis.

For his part, Arafat attempted to play down the significance of Kaddoumi's remarks.

"This is his point of view, not that of the PLO. I am looking into it now," Arafat said.

On Thursday, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres phoned Arafat twice to insist that the PLO leader take a firmer stand against Kaddoumi's remarks.

Peres stressed that Arafat would have to issue a public condemnation of the remarks.

Arafat agreed to publish a statement that Kaddoumi's remarks were his own personal opinion and did not reflect the stand of the PLO.

**CHIEF RABBIS ENDORSE
ISRAELI-JORDANIAN PACT**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Israel's highest religious body gave its formal approval this week to the July 28 Washington Declaration, which officially brought to an end the 46-year state of war between Israel and Jordan.

But while approving the agreement on Monday, the Chief Rabbinical Council requested that it take part in any future discussions on the status of the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

The council, which includes both Ashkenazic and Sephardic religious leaders, made the request as a result of a provision in the declaration in which Israel recognized Jordan's traditional role as guardian of the religious sites, which include the el-Aksa and Omar Mosques.

In a statement issued after its meeting Monday, the council said that the historic right of the Jewish people to the Temple Mount was not open to dispute.

"The Mount is the sanctuary which was the holy place of the Jewish people, to which they directed their prayers daily for thousands of years," the statement read.

Israel's recognition of Jordan's role at the holy sites has been the subject of much criticism from the Palestinian leadership, which hopes to establish eastern Jerusalem as the capital of an eventual Palestinian state.

**GERMAN COURT'S PRAISE OF RIGHT-WINGER
ELICITS STRONG INTERNATIONAL REACTION**
By Gil Sedan

BONN, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- The government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, along with Jewish leaders here and abroad, has issued a sharp condemnation of a German court for its lenient verdict against an extremist right-wing leader who claimed that the Holocaust never took place.

In June, a state court in the southwestern German city of Mannheim found Gunter Deckert, chairman of the right-wing National Democratic Party, guilty on charges of inciting racial hatred and sentenced him to a one-year suspended sentence.

This week, the court explained that the lenient sentence had been handed down because Deckert was a family man with no previous criminal record.

The court also praised the defendant as a "highly intelligent person" of "strong character."

Charges had initially been brought against Deckert after he served as translator at a rally in 1991 for Fred Leuchter, an American Holocaust denier.

In addition to translating comments made by Leuchter, Deckert had said that he supported Leuchter's theories, including statements that the Holocaust never took place. Publicly expressing Holocaust-denial views is a crime under German law.

Deckert had already been convicted and given a one-year suspended sentence on the charge on Nov. 13, 1992. But both he and the state court appealed the sentence, with Deckert wanting the case dropped entirely and the state prosecutor seeking a tougher sentence.

In March of this year, the Federal Court of Justice, Germany's highest appeals court, reversed the lower court's decision, saying that simply repeating another person's Holocaust denial was not in itself a punishable offense.

It then sent the case back to the Mannheim court to determine whether Deckert subscribed to Nazi ideology, which is a punishable offense.

This week, the Mannheim court issued an

explanation of its June ruling, saying, "The defendant, who belongs to the political right, is not an anti-Semite in the sense of (subscribing to the ideology of) the Nazis, who denied the Jews their right to live."

The court also described Deckert as a dedicated nationalist who resented the moral and financial demands Jews have made on Germany in the wake of the Holocaust.

"On the basis of his national attitude, he criticizes the Jews for their continuous insistence on the Holocaust, and consequently for their financial, political and moral demands, although 50 years have passed since the war."

The ruling triggered a chain of angry reactions. Norbert Schaefer, a spokesman for Kohl, said Wednesday that the government regretted "the bad signals stemming from the verdict," adding that the government "has never left any doubt about its determination to fight right-wing extremism."

Justice Minister Sabine Leutheuser-Schnarrenberger described the ruling as "a slap in the face of all Holocaust victims."

It was an alarming sign, she said, that a German court had described the Holocaust denial as a "matter of the heart."

Ignatz Bubis, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, demanded a strong reaction by the federal government.

Michel Friedman, a senior member of the council, said the ruling amounted to a "recipe for neo-Nazis on how to avoid incrimination."

In a statement issued in New York, the World Jewish Congress said the court's decision "constitutes a judicial assault on the Jewish people and an incitement to racial hatred."

"It is incumbent upon the Government of Germany to denounce this grotesque decision, and we call upon the Federal Court of Justice to overrule the Mannheim court and transform the suspended term to a jail sentence," the statement read.

The Anti-Defamation League and the Simon Wiesenthal Center also condemned the court's ruling.

WIESENTHAL CENTER URGES THE DUTCH TO REVIVE ITS EXTRADITION EFFORTS

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- The Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center is urging the Dutch government to again seek the extradition of Dutch Nazi war criminal Abraham Kipp from Argentina.

Appearing on a Dutch television program Sunday night, Ephraim Zuroff, director of the Israeli office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said there was a better chance now for Kipp's extradition than in 1989, when a similar Dutch request was refused. That request was made after Kipp's whereabouts in Argentina were discovered.

During World War II, Kipp was a member of the SS. He betrayed many people in Holland during the German occupation and, following the war, was sentenced to life in prison. He served part of his term, and then managed to escape in 1949 and reach Argentina.

Appearing on the same television program as Zuroff, Paul Brilman, the Dutch public prosecutor in charge of locating Dutch war criminals, said

there were legal problems involved in Kipp's extradition which he did not think could be solved.

In June, Brilman said that a Dutch request to Argentina for the extradition of Kipp stood no chance of succeeding. Brilman said at the time that he knew for several years that Kipp was living in Argentina.

However, he said, the Argentine government turned down his request for Kipp's extradition three times, saying the statute of limitations for war crimes had run out.

The fact that Kipp was living in a suburb of Buenos Aires surfaced in the news recently after an Argentine television program showed Kipp and a Belgian war criminal, Wilhelm Sassen, a former aide to Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, living in Argentina.

Brilman said there are 14 Dutch war criminals on his wanted list who are still living abroad, but there is little possibility of bringing them to trial in Holland. Of that total, 11 are now living in Germany and have acquired German nationality. Two, including Kipp, are living in Argentina, and one is in Spain.

According to reports here, the Simon Wiesenthal Center will shortly open an office in Buenos Aires because it believes that Argentine President Carlos Menem is prepared to help in the extradition of war criminals.

OVER 25,000 CALLS MADE TO JORDAN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- More than 25,000 telephone calls were placed from Israel to Jordan in the first four days of direct phone service between the two countries, the Bezek telecommunications corporation announced.

Bezek described the telephone traffic as "phenomenal." It did not say how many calls were made from Jordan to Israel.

Bezek's director-general, Yitzhak Kaul, made one of the first calls. Using a fax line, he sent a message to Adman Gnaw, his counterpart at the Jordanian telecommunications company, suggesting they hold a joint meeting in either country to discuss communications links and the development of additional services.

ISRAEL SOON REVERTS TO STANDARD TIME

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Israel will revert to standard time on Aug. 27, more than two months before the rest of the world returns to general mean time.

Israel's clocks will be set back one hour at midnight local time on Saturday night, Aug. 27, 10 days before Rosh Hashanah. Israel's time changes are made to enable observant Jews to say morning prayers during daylight hours. Observant Jews recite the Selichot prayers every morning at least four days before Rosh Hashanah.

The change in Israel's clock will set Israeli Standard Time two hours ahead of General Mean Time, formerly known as Greenwich Mean Time for the world's central clock, located in Greenwich, England. Israeli clocks will be eight hours ahead of Daylight Saving Time in the eastern United States until the end of October, when that time difference will revert to seven hours.

DESPITE CONTROVERSIES THAT DIVIDE, JEWS AND EVANGELICALS SLATE PARLEY

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Despite heated controversy separating the two groups, representatives of leading Jewish and evangelical Christian organizations will come together for a conference slated for early in the winter.

There have been previous gatherings between representatives of Jewish and evangelical groups, but they have primarily been limited to clergy and academics.

This is believed to be the first time that leaders of some of the top political and communal organizations will convene.

The purpose of the conference, said Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, its organizer, is "to shatter stereotypes."

Eckstein, who is Orthodox, is president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, a group that he founded 11 years ago.

It is important that the two communities know each other, Eckstein said, because "there is a common ground even on moral values between evangelicals and Jews which hasn't been discerned yet."

Among the confirmed participants are Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League; Phil Baum, acting executive director of the American Jewish Congress; Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition; and Rev. Jerry Falwell of Liberty University.

News of the meeting, which is being called the "Evangelical-Jewish Leadership Congress," comes on the heels of an imbroglio between the ADL and the Christian Coalition.

The ADL recently published a book critical of Pat Robertson and the Christian Coalition, which he founded in 1989, as being the prime forces in a movement which, according to the book, poses a threat to tolerance and pluralism in America.

A sharply worded correspondence between Robertson and Foxman ensued, with a number of Jewish conservatives springing to the defense of the Christian Coalition.

The debate quickly became framed by hostile rhetoric.

'There Are Principles We Can Agree To'

While efforts had been under way for some time to bring together representatives of Jewish groups and the politically ascendant evangelical community, the conflict between the ADL and the Christian Coalition made it a priority, according to Eckstein.

He said he expects to have 20 or 30 participants representing Jewish groups and Christian Pentecostal, charismatic and fundamentalist groups.

Eckstein said he believes that "there are principles and applications of principles that we can agree to, like the sanctity of life."

That could extend to cooperation in public policy-making, he added, if "we can get agreement on certain applications of the principles, like the need for more day care centers, educational facilities or adoption programs."

Eckstein said that political issues will be on the conference agenda.

But he wants to make the conference itself

non-partisan by scheduling it after the 1994 elections and by inviting liberal, as well as conservative, Jewish participation.

Rather than hold the conference in October, as was originally planned, it is now slated for late November or early December, he said.

As the elections near, the Christian right expects to face a concerted attack from the Democratic Party, said Eckstein.

"If we have a conference a week or two before the elections, people on the Christian side might look to the Jewish side for a response, and that would put the Jewish side into a position of having to defend the Christian right, which I'm not sure they would do.

"We'll also see how the Christian right does in the elections," he added.

In addition to the confirmed participants, invitees include Jewish political conservatives Marshall Breger and Irving Kristol, and political liberals Arthur Hertzberg and Maynard Wishner.

In its recent history, the Christian religious right has been embraced by many on the Jewish political right.

The two groups have coalesced around a common political and ideological agenda that supports school vouchers and prayer in public schools and opposes abortion, among other public policy issues.

Many on the Christian religious right, who believe that Israel's strength is a necessary condition in order for the Messiah to return, support Israel financially and politically.

Donated Money To Operation Exodus

A total of about \$600,000 has been donated by evangelical Christians in the past 18 months to the United Jewish Appeal's Operation Exodus, which resettles immigrants in Israel, according to Eckstein, who spearheads fund-raising for Israel among evangelicals.

Phil Baum, acting executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said that meeting with the evangelicals will be useful because "it's been difficult to disagree without demonizing" each other.

The AJCongress is a Jewish communal agency which generally takes liberal positions on public policy issues and opposes the positions taken by the religious right.

"We intend to maintain strenuous opposition to many things said by the evangelicals and to protect their right to be heard," said Baum.

"We have an obligation to oppose them vehemently without implying that access to the forum is to be preserved for the side with which we agree.

"To the extent we can eliminate the canard that somehow our views are anti-Christian, we can benefit from that.

"It doesn't do us any good for Christians to believe we are trying to stop them from expressing their views," he said.

Baum alluded to statements made by the Christian Coalition's Robertson, among others, that liberal Jewish groups work with the media to attack the views of evangelical Christians.

"Those on the Christian right view themselves as a persecuted minority," said Eckstein.

"Whether or not that perception is one the Jewish community agrees with, that perception is their reality," he said.

POLLARD'S WIFE CHARGES ISRAEL WITH COMPLACENCY IN HUSBAND'S CASE

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Esther Zeitz-Pollard, the new wife of Jonathan Pollard, believes that Israeli officials have not done enough to secure her husband's release from prison.

Though Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence for giving classified information to Israel, is technically up for parole in late 1995, Zeitz-Pollard says she is certain that parole will be denied.

Instead, she is looking to the Israeli government to demand the release of her husband, who is in prison in Buttner, N.C.

During a visit to Israel last month, she met with President Ezer Weizman and other Israeli officials to discuss her husband's case.

However, she said her attempts to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin proved futile. He flatly refused to speak to her, she said.

Despite that rebuff, she said she came away from her other meetings "convinced that Israelis want to help Jonathan and see justice done."

Zeitz-Pollard described her efforts to meet with Israeli decision-makers and journalists, hoping to bring her husband's cause to as many Israelis as possible.

Regardless of the interviewer, her message was the same: The key to Jonathan Pollard's release is in the hands of the Israeli government.

The Israelis, she asserted, should have done more to secure her husband's commutation when President Clinton was considering the matter in March.

She says that both she and her husband had high hopes when Clinton assumed the presidency, believing he would commute Jonathan's sentence.

According to media reports, then Defense Secretary Les Aspin leaked a letter he had written to Clinton opposing a reduction in Pollard's sentence. Aspin charged that Pollard was still a threat to national security because he had slipped classified information into several letters he had written from prison.

'A Slap In The Face' To Jews

It is widely believed that Clinton refused to commute Pollard's sentence because of Aspin's assertions that Pollard remains a security threat.

Zeitz-Pollard rejects Aspin's assertions, and believes that Israeli officials should have reacted more strongly to the defense secretary's charges.

"There are certain actions [the Israeli government] failed to take at the time that would have sent a very clear message to the administration," said Zeitz-Pollard, who married Jonathan Pollard in his prison earlier this year.

"One of those things would have been to respond to the allegations against Jonathan that were equally allegations against Israel, such as the fact that Israel had taken information that they got from Jonathan and gave it to the Soviets," she said.

Still, she acknowledged that Rabin did ask Clinton for a commutation. "This should have been taken into account," she said.

She called Clinton's decision not to commute the sentence "a slap in the face" to Jews the world over who had expressed their concerns about Pollard to Rabin and to the State of Israel.

"What was Israel's response?" she asked. "There was no response. Not a word."

"What we've learned from a very good contact within a U.S. security department is that if the government of Israel would show a serious intent to secure Jonathan's release, it could be effective within 24 hours," she asserted.

"I'm not criticizing, I'm simply stating a fact," she said. "When the commutation was turned down in that ugly way, there was no response from Israel."

She said that this, and other actions by Israel, "have again and again sent a message to the American administration -- maybe inadvertently -- saying 'this one is expendable.'"

Zeitz-Pollard also said that her husband's requests for help from Israeli diplomatic officials in the United States have been rejected.

"They have all sent back messages, via a third party, mind you, that their instructions from Jerusalem are that they are not to meet with him or talk to him," she said.

Asked to respond to these assertions, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said the ministry has one standard response to all matters relating to Pollard: "Israel has done and is doing everything it can out of humanitarian reasons to improve Jonathan Pollard's situation, and if possible, to bring about the commutation of his sentence."

WILLIAM LANDAU DEAD OF CANCER AT 67; WAS JTA PRESIDENT AND UJA BENEFACTOR

NEW YORK, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- William Landau, a past president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and longtime member of its board of directors, died Wednesday at the age of 67.

Landau was president of JTA from 1973 to 1979 and was chairman of the board from 1979 to 1985. He was chairman of the board's Budget and Finance Committee at the time of his death.

He served on the boards of several other Jewish organizations, including UJA/Federation of New York and the New York Association for New Americans. He was also a devoted member of the Westchester Reform Synagogue in Scarsdale, N.Y., and served on its board of directors.

Along with his wife, Bubbles, Landau created UJA/Federation's Landau Family Fund to help aid Jewish elderly, homeless and battered women.

A second-generation American, Landau was the grandson of a rabbi who immigrated to America from Europe in 1900.

After graduating Lehigh University and New York Law School, he became a certified public accountant and eventually served as managing partner of a national accounting firm founded by his father.

A political activist, he also served as campaign treasurer for numerous candidates for national and local public office.

Recalling Landau, JTA President Marshall Weinberg said, "I knew and worked with Bill Landau for many years, both in the UJA/Federation and the JTA."

"He was extremely sensitive, modest, unpretentious and able," Weinberg said.

He added, "Only three days ago, despite the seriousness of his condition, he spoke to me and even then was concerned about how the organization was going. We will all miss him deeply."