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**MOROCCO ANNOUNCES TIES WITH ISRAEL;  
MINISTER CALLS IT A 'HOLIDAY PRESENT'**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- On the eve of the Jewish New Year, Morocco has become the second Arab country with diplomatic ties with Israel.

On Thursday, the two countries announced that they would soon open liaison offices in Tel Aviv and Rabat, the Moroccan capital.

"For us it's a beautiful present on the holiday, but it is beyond a holiday present," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Army Radio.

"The majority of relations that we have focused on were bilateral with states neighboring us.

"This is an opening of a regional system of relations," said Peres.

Morocco also announced that it would simultaneously open a representative office to the Palestinian governing authority in Gaza. The Palestine Liberation Organization has had what is termed an "embassy" in Rabat for many years.

Morocco and Israel have long had de facto relations, with King Hassan II serving as an intermediary in Israel's peace efforts over the years.

Speculation of Israeli-Moroccan ties has been rife since the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accord in Washington last September.

Returning from the Washington ceremony, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Peres stopped off in Morocco, their first public visit to the country.

For some time, Morocco has encouraged tourism and even trade with Israel, where 600,000 Israelis claim Moroccan descent.

**Active Normalization Discussions Going On**

In its announcement of the establishment of an interest section in Rabat, the Foreign Ministry said that the offices were being set up "according to the rules and norms detailed in the Vienna Treaty on diplomatic relations."

It was not immediately clear when the exchange of offices would take place.

According to Lester Pollack, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, "There are active normalization discussions going on, and the establishment of liaison offices is a further substantiation of the progress they're making."

Pollack met with the king on Wednesday to discuss plans for a regional economic conference the king will host in October.

Rabin and Peres last month received invitations to the conference, which will include government and business representatives from countries such as Jordan and possibly Saudi Arabia, as well as Western business leaders.

"The summit represents a continuation of (Hassan's) leadership in the area for peace," said Pollack.

(JTA staff writer Larry Yudelson in New York contributed to this report.)

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:****FROM PIECES OF PAPER TO PEACE:****ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR LOOKS AHEAD**

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- On the eve of Rosh Hashanah, Israel's ambassador to the United States envisions a new year of concrete implementation of the historic accords Israel signed with Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"The challenge is to make sure that the breakthroughs are not only a collection of agreements and papers, but that it results in a peace," Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich said in an interview at his embassy office in the waning days of 5754.

Approaching his second anniversary as Israel's most senior diplomat in the United States, Rabinovich hailed this past year's achievements and "an almost unprecedented closeness" between Israel and the United States.

"What we see is an integrated process at work, a comprehensive strategy for trying to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict," said Rabinovich, a former rector of Tel Aviv University whose academic career centered on Middle Eastern history.

**Boycott Of Israel And Jews Collapsing**

"You now have Arab states in the Gulf opening their states to Israelis," he said.

With regard to the Arab boycott, he said both the economic policy and general Arab view of boycotting Israel and all Jews is "collapsing."

The ambassador also expressed hope for continuing progress in negotiations with Israel's strongest foe, Syria.

"Assad realized that the breakthrough with Jordan was a landmark event," said Rabinovich, who also serves as Israel's chief negotiator in the long-stalled talks with Syria.

Noting that the Syrian leader allowed the state-run television station to broadcast uninterrupted the July 25 signing ceremony between King Hussein of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington, the ambassador said: "By exposing his own population to the event, he was, for the first time, engaging in the type of public diplomacy we have been advocating for years."

Rabinovich described the overall peace process as a tremendous success.

"What we now have is an ongoing process trying to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict," he said.

In order to give peace a "complete picture," he said there are significant issues that need to be addressed, including the need to work on economic development, scarcity of water resources and the ballooning population in the region.

Rabinovich expressed unbridled optimism for the coming year, while at the same time acknowledging this year's bumps and bruises along the road, especially with the Palestinians.

Despite the obstacles, he said, the important thing is that Israel is out of Gaza and the Pales-

tinians are beginning to govern themselves. And, he added, "the friction between Palestinians and Israelis is reduced."

When Israel signed the declaration of principles with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat last September, he said, "we made a problematic agreement from our point of view with a former deadly enemy."

"I think the prime minister embodied, in the most vivid fashion, the ambivalence of many Israelis, myself included, in making this act of reconciliation," he said, referring to Yitzhak Rabin's obvious discomfort at the Sept. 13 signing.

With the first anniversary of that historic signing approaching, Rabinovich assessed the progress of the agreement to date.

"The delivery is not perfect and there are several aspects (with) which we are very unhappy," he said. "We don't think Arafat fights terrorism and violence with the degree of conviction and assertiveness that are called for."

"We think that his conduct and rhetoric is not that of somebody who has buried the hatchet, but that of somebody who continues the competition, if not the struggle," he continued. "And we think that he doesn't place significant emphasis on economic development and on raising the standard of living. This robs his own people of some of the economic opportunities that have been afforded to them," he said.

But despite these problems, the ambassador believes "the bottom line was extremely positive."

On the Jordanian front, Rabinovich also expressed the need for continuing implementation of signed agreements.

"With Jordan, the Washington Declaration was wonderful and the ceremonies very impressive, but we do want to see its implementation," he said.

Jordanian and Israeli negotiators are currently hammering out agreements on outstanding issues such as the allocation of water rights and borders.

Beyond agreements with Jordan and the PLO, Rabinovich said, peace with Syria is essential to the overall resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said that many Arab countries "make no secret of the fact" that they are waiting for Syria before they normalize relations with Israel.

#### 'We Have Not Accepted The Syrian Demand'

Direct talks between Israel and Syria have been on hold since reaching an impasse last year. Talks were deadlocked as Israel waited for Syrian clarification on the kind of peace President Hafez Assad would offer, while Syria was demanding full withdrawal from the Golan Heights before it would spell out terms of any future peace.

"For us this is not a story of withdrawal, but is about setting the relationship between Syria and Israel," Rabinovich said, adding, "We have not accepted the Syrian demand for full withdrawal."

Assessing the current status, Rabinovich said, "What we now have is an Israeli package that was elaborated on last spring and laid on the table in May."

While he would not reveal the details of the package, he said the Syrian response to date "is not satisfactory."

But the sides are continuing discussions through the mediation of U.S. Secretary of State

Warren Christopher, who has made several trips to the region recently.

Rabinovich said that whatever Israeli withdrawal from the Golan would take place, it will be spread over a period "longer than 3 years."

He said that despite Israel's concern over Israeli-Syrian relations, his government recognizes that Syria's goal of achieving better relations with the United States is part of its motive for movement with Israel.

Rabinovich praised recent trips by American Jews to Syria as a help to the process.

"It's important they meet with Syria and express their point of view and serve as another important bridge between Syria and us, and Syria and the United States."

"But it is never a substitute for the two principal negotiating avenues," he said, referring to the bilateral and multilateral Middle East talks.

Assad's overtures to the American Jews represents an important start to public gestures of reconciliation necessary on all fronts, Rabinovich said.

As for the American Jewish community, Rabinovich said he is "grateful" for their support for the peace process.

"Support is not universal, but a comparatively small number of critics oppose the process," he said.

"There is a significant number of individuals with concerns and questions and, in this respect, the American Jewish community is a reflection of the Israeli Jewish community," he added.

#### Calls U.S. Role 'Crucial'

Rabinovich categorized the United States' role in the peace process as "crucial" and lavished praise on both the Clinton administration, especially Christopher, and on former President George Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker, for getting the process started.

"When it comes to the Middle East peace process, this is an area in which the administration has very distinct and very significant achievements," he said.

This year will end with "an almost unprecedented closeness" between Israel and the United States, the ambassador said.

One example of this improved relationship, he said, was the Clinton administration's decision to allow Israel, for the first time, to compete in the aerospace industry.

Israel also purchased the most advanced American fighter planes available, the F-15s and F-16s.

Looking to the year ahead and Israeli election primaries slated for November 1995, Rabinovich predicted that the Labor-led government has "over a year that is largely free of political consideration" to pursue its peace initiatives.

"Time is not in endless supply" but "this government does not conduct its peace policy with any sense of a ticking clock," he said.

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Due to the Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah holidays, JTA will not publish a Daily News Bulletin on the following dates: Sept. 5, Sept. 7 and Sept. 8. There also will be no DNB on Yom Kippur, Sept. 15. Shanah tovah!

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## ISRAELI AID IN RWANDA CLOSES, BUT JDC STILL TREATS REFUGEES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- The Israeli field hospital set up at the Rwanda-Zaire border to administer emergency medical services to Rwandan refugees returned home this week after six weeks of harrowing work.

During their stay, three teams of 90 medical and technical volunteers from the Israel Defense Force treated tens of thousands of ailing Rwandans, most suffering from cholera and dehydration, and performed over 100 operations.

IDF Medical Corps officers put the cost of the mercy operation, which was meant to be a short-term stay, at about \$7 million. It is hoped that the Finance Ministry will help to defray the costs incurred by the IDF for the mission.

A French hospital is to remain in the area for some time longer to treat remaining Rwandan refugees still in need of medical aid.

In addition, a medical team sent by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee remains on the scene and has been left some of the IDF equipment for its 200-bed hospital at the Kibumba refugee camp near the Rwanda-Zaire border, which it operates with the International Rescue Committee, according to Gideon Taylor, director of special projects for JDC.

It is the second medical team sent by the JDC to aid the Rwandan refugees since they began pouring over the border several months ago.

On Thursday, the JDC was among a number of relief organizations that received a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for aiding Rwandan refugees. The ceremony took place at New York's City Hall.

### From Hut To Hut To Treat The Dying

The JDC is working with a coalition of 26 Jewish organizations and has also formed a partnership with the African American Institute, a multi-ethnic agency that has worked in Africa for 40 years, to aid the Rwandan refugees.

The coalition has raised \$590,000 in over 6,000 individual donations, Taylor said.

JDC President Milton Wolf said, "The medical teams represent a major Jewish response in the relief effort to help the Rwandan refugees."

The JDC mobilized to help the Rwandans as soon as refugees from the brutal internecine fighting began pouring over the border with Zaire, creating one of the largest refugee camps ever. The refugees were suffering from cholera and a virulent form of dysentery called shigella which can kill and often does. The cholera is now in check, but the shigella continues to plague the population, Taylor said.

Since stationary medical facilities could not help Rwandan refugees who were dying in huts or on the road, JDC medical teams went "from hut to hut treating the dying where they were, hundreds of thousands of them," said Taylor.

A JDC team of two American doctors, a nurse and two paramedics remains operating at the Kibumba refugee camp, which is in the area of Goma, Zaire, near the border with Rwanda. Taylor estimated that about 300,000 refugees remain at the camp.

The health workers, who volunteered their

time for one month, are operating a hospital with 200 beds, seeing a few hundred people a day, Taylor said.

The medical team has also trained Rwandans as community health workers to go from shelter to shelter in isolated outposts of the refugee camp, looking for ailing persons and particularly caring for orphaned babies, he said.

He said this model was developed by the JDC in Ethiopia when the JDC was helping Ethiopian Jews who had come en masse to Addis Ababa to leave for Israel.

Taylor said the JDC treatment model was praised recently at a State Department hearing by the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, which recommended it "as a model for dealing with the enormous health problems of the Rwandan refugees."

(JTA staff writer Susan Birnbaum contributed to this report.)

## U.N. WATCH: SYMPOSIUM REVERTS TO A 'HALF-CENTURY OF CONFLICT'

By Larry Yudelson

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- A United Nations-sponsored symposium on "the Question of Palestine" has threatened the Middle East peace process, the World Jewish Congress has charged.

In a speech delivered to the Geneva symposium this week, Eric Block, a fellow of the WJC's U.N. Watch, charged that the symposium "substitutes distrust for confidence and continues the fruitless, bloody and sad half-century of conflict."

The U.N. Watch monitors issues of Jewish concerns at the U.N. in Geneva.

Block's address was interrupted Wednesday, when the chair ruled it out of order.

He was allowed to complete his statement Thursday, the final day of the four-day conference of international and European non-governmental organizations.

Block lambasted the symposium for vehemently criticizing the substance of the Washington and Cairo agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In particular, he said, the participants seemed to conclude that the "cornerstone of the agenda" should be the return of Palestinian refugees and the establishment of Jerusalem as the capital of an independent Palestinian state.

Noting that these two issues had been left as final status topics by Israel and the PLO, Block said that by raising the subjects, the symposium "undermines not only Israel's ability to implement the peace plan, but the Palestinian ability as well."

The symposium was held under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, a body Israel and the United States have long boycotted.

An official at the Israeli mission to the United Nations in New York said the Israeli position is that if the United Nations wants to conduct a symposium on the Palestinians, the right sponsor today is not the committee in Geneva but the coordinator for the United Nations with the Palestinian governing authority.

The official added that Israel will work this year toward the elimination of the committee.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:****FROM SHTETL TO STRUGGLING COMMUNITY:  
UKRAINIAN JEWS REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER**

By Lisa Glazer

KORSUN, Ukraine, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Once thriving Jewish shtetls, small towns outside of Kiev today encompass some 3,000 Jews who are in the midst of rediscovering the Jewish life that they lost.

In Ukrainian towns such as Korsun-Shevchenkovsky, Periaslav-Khmelnitsky, Boguslav, Zvinigorodka, Shpola, Zolotonoshe, Smela and Pollonoye, religious and cultural life was devastated during World War II and then repressed during the Soviet era.

But now, even as many emigrate to Israel, Jewish life is once again reviving in what is now the independent country of Ukraine.

As part of this revival, 10 Jewish community groups in the area have created a regional association, which held its first-ever conference last month in preparation for the Jewish new year.

The participants included 17 activists, many of them elderly.

"We organized the association because we are small and we are only going to become smaller," explained the association's executive director Klara Petrovshansky, who oversees a new Jewish library here.

"But we have to be together," she said, adding theirs are small towns with their "own special problems."

"Ten years ago, it was forbidden to even think about this; they wanted us to assimilate. Only in 1989, when (former Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev came to power and the Jews had permission to go to Israel did Jewish life begin to revive," she said.

**'Many Jews Afraid To Come Out'**

Korsun-Shevchenkovsky's Jewish community, which was a catalyst for establishing the regional association, received a special push from Sallie Gratch, a Chicagoan who visited the town a few years ago and suggested a communal Rosh Hashanah celebration.

"Many Jews were afraid to come out, someone even proposed that we invite the police," recalled Petrovshansky. "But the event was a success. We sang and danced, and afterwards the young people asked me when will we have the next celebration."

From this event an organized community began to develop and reach out to surrounding towns, which in turn created their own organizations and eventually set up the Regional Association of Jewish Communities of Small Towns in Ukraine.

Their premiere conference took place in Korsun's youth center last month inside a large, airless room dominated by a larger-than-life white plaster statue of Lenin. Lenins's right arm was outstretched in what could be interpreted as a welcoming gesture toward the twin flags of Israel and Ukraine standing nearby.

Reporting on their recent activities, many representatives spoke of cemetery restoration projects, new monuments to the Holocaust, holiday celebrations, assistance to the elderly and the creation of new Jewish Sunday schools and Hebrew classes.

Delegates spoke of their common problems in developing Jewish communal organizations when so many people are leaving for Israel. They also spoke of the difficulty of restoring Jewish traditions in towns lacking rabbis, synagogues and people conversant in Jewish rituals.

This last complaint was met with practical advice when two young women, who recently received Jewish training in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, rose and described in great detail Jewish holiday traditions, including suggestions on how to turn classrooms and community centers into sites for Jewish celebration.

Two representatives from the Ukraine office of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which sponsored the event, attended the conference.

The JDC representatives asked for lists of people who would require food packages for the holidays. After handing out a book describing Jewish holidays, they brought forth a shofar, which was handed around the room, examined with great interest and then blown.

The squeaky, shrill noise that echoed around the room inspired laughs, cheers and a boisterous round of clapping.

After the conference, the participants retired to a Ukrainian inn for a celebratory banquet accompanied by music from a local Jewish musical group.

At the inn, some of the activists described their lives in the smaller towns of Ukraine. Many said they were having a hard time getting by, noting that they were either unemployed, on forced "vacations" from non-working factories or earning tiny state salaries of less than \$30 a month.

"My salary is not even enough for a dress," said Rima Rob, 25, who works as a music teacher and whose husband is an unemployed shoemaker.

"The situation is so difficult in all industry in Ukraine, and especially in small towns," added Petrovshansky, whose husband is a senior official in a factory where only half the workers are needed -- and even they haven't received pay for three months.

She inclined her head toward the Jewish music and dancing filling the banquet room.

"This," she said, "is the only place in our hard lives to feel joy."

**GERMANY OPENS OFFICE IN JERICHO**

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Germany has opened an office in Jericho whose main purpose is to monitor the spending of German aid to the Palestinians.

The office, which was opened Wednesday, makes Germany the first country to officially establish a mission in the Palestinian self-rule areas.

However, the office "is neither an embassy nor a consulate," said Theodor Wallau, director-general of the German Foreign Ministry, at the crowded official opening of the Jericho office.

His comment was meant to indicate that Germany and the Palestinians are adhering to the clause in the Israeli-Palestinian self-rule accord under which Israel remains in control of foreign policy in the territories.

The office will mainly oversee the spending of some \$200 million in German aid.