

**U.S. JEWS STILL SUPPORT PEACE PROCESS,
BUT NOT AS MUCH AS LAST YEAR, POLL SAYS**
By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Sept. 13 (JTA) -- American Jews remain strongly supportive of Israeli policies on the peace process, according to a new poll sponsored by the American Jewish Committee.

But the survey revealed less enthusiasm among American Jews than a similar poll found a year ago, immediately after the signing of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

According to the survey of 1,000 American Jews conducted in mid-August, 77 percent supported the Israeli government's handling of the peace negotiations with the Arabs, and 10 percent oppose. This compares to 84 percent in support of the Israeli government a year ago.

Similarly, 61 percent of those surveyed believed that the plan for Palestinian autonomy increases the chance for peace with the Arabs, down from 73 percent a year ago.

"People responded in a less euphoric, more realistic manner," said David Harris, AJCommittee's executive director.

He noted that the survey indicated that "the Arabs, and particularly the PLO, have not persuaded a number of American Jews that they can be trusted and relied upon in this process."

Only 18 percent of those surveyed believed the PLO could be relied upon "to honor its agreements and refrain from terrorist activity against Israel." Sixty-five percent did not trust the PLO.

A year ago, 34 percent felt the PLO could be relied upon.

One Group Opposes Peace Process

The poll found one group resolutely opposed to the peace accord: the Orthodox.

"They are the only group with an absolute majority opposed to the peace process," said David Singer, AJCommittee's director of research.

This reflects a shift from last year, when they were already "the most skeptical group," said Singer, but had a majority that approved of the peace talks.

Only 35 percent of the Orthodox respondents supported the way the Israeli government has handled the peace negotiations, with 54 percent opposed. A year ago, 52 percent of the Orthodox supported it, and only 32 percent opposed.

Meanwhile, the Israel Policy Forum -- organized last year to rally support behind the policies of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labor Party -- this week released two other surveys, one of the American public as a whole and one of the Israeli public.

In its survey of 1,000 Americans, the group found that Americans held a favorable view of the Israeli government's peace efforts by a solid 57 percent majority, with 22 percent holding an unfavorable view and the remainder unsure.

Similarly, 44 percent favored the American government's efforts to support the peace process, against only 15 percent opposing.

The survey found that college-educated Americans who follow international affairs more closely support both the Israeli and American positions more strongly, with two-thirds favoring them.

Finally, in its survey of Israelis, the Israel Policy Forum has found support for the principle that underlay its creation: that the views of American Jews matter for both Israeli and American policy.

The formation of the forum reflected a determined effort by dovish American Jews to push their policies at a time when the Rabin government, in its initial months, seemed to denigrate the importance of the American Jewish community and to pay little attention to shaping its opinion.

Asked to what extent the opinions and the actions of American Jews influence U.S. policy in the Middle East, 55 percent said a great deal or a lot. Seventy-six percent said the opinions and actions of American Jews mean a great deal or are very important to Israel and its future.

The Israel Policy Forum earlier this year conducted a survey of American Jews, which had similar findings to those of the more recent AJCommittee poll.

NEWS ANALYSIS:**ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, AUTONOMY
CREEPS ALONG 'SURPRISINGLY WELL'**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 13 (JTA) -- One year after Israel signed the historic Declaration of Principles with the Palestine Liberation Organization, a key engineer of the accord says things are going "surprisingly well" between the two erstwhile foes.

Uri Savir, director-general of the Foreign Ministry and the man who headed Israel's team during the crucial closing phase of the secret talks with the PLO last year in Oslo, said this week that the PLO leadership's transfer from its former headquarters in Tunis to the Gaza Strip in July had gone more smoothly than had been expected.

The gradual unfolding of the phased autonomy program, he said, was proceeding satisfactorily.

Meanwhile, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat spoke this week of holding elections throughout the West Bank and Gaza in November -- an ambitiously tight timeframe that presumes intensive negotiations between the two sides in the weeks and months ahead.

The Declaration of Principles, signed Sept. 13, 1993, on the South Lawn of the White House, provided for the establishment of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, which took place in May. This move was to be followed by the transfer of authority over education, health and other key civilian areas from Israeli hands to the Palestinians.

This so-called "early empowerment," which has been signed but not fully implemented, was, in turn, to be followed by an Israeli troop re-

deployment out of city centers in the West Bank on the eve of Palestinian elections. The final phase, according to the declaration, would grant Palestinian self-rule throughout the West Bank.

Negotiations on the final status of the territories are to begin no later than the end of the second year after the initial Gaza-Jericho phase went into effect -- that is, by the summer of 1996. The final status talks are to deal with major obstacles, such as the fate of Jewish settlements in Gaza and the West Bank and the question of sovereignty over Jerusalem.

Savir's assessment, perhaps understandably, accentuates the positive, while the right-wing opposition in Israel stresses the negative.

Getting Used To Arafat As A Neighbor

Similarly, statistics published this week by settlers groups indicate an upsurge in terrorism against Israelis since Sept. 13, 1993. Figures published by the Israel Defense Force show a decline.

But whatever one's standpoint, it can hardly be denied that Arafat's permanent presence in Gaza, more than any other single factor, has contributed to the de-demonization -- if not yet full normalization -- of the still-complex relationship between the two peoples.

A year ago, even after the significance of the breakthrough to peace had begun to be realized, most Israelis simply could not conceive of Arafat, their archenemy, actually taking up peaceable residence alongside them.

Now that, too, is taken almost for granted.

Israelis by and large still do not like the man; they do not trust him. Yet they are getting used to him as a neighbor, warts and all -- and that, too, is a form of peacemaking.

The neighborly relations between the teeming Gaza Strip and Israel proper have been soured all too often over recent months by instances of bloody, sometimes lethal violence.

The fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad gangs are still out and about in the strip. On occasion, terrorists manage to slip across the border and wreak their murderous havoc on civilian targets inside Israel.

The performance of the Palestinian police force and fledgling security service still leaves much to be desired. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin himself, at moments of grief and impotent frustration, has openly questioned not only the Palestinian force's capabilities, but the sincerity of its efforts to apprehend terrorists.

Rabin warns that security -- especially the security of Jewish settlers living in Gaza and in the West Bank -- will continue to be the most important criterion by which Israeli public opinion will judge the success of the peace process.

Clearly there is a built-in paradox here: The settlers, like the terrorists, are the very group that least wishes to see the process succeed.

In a strange way, therefore, Israel and the PLO have together given the opponents of peace within their societies, separately and collectively, a key say in whether this peace will ultimately evolve into a permanent solution of the conflict.

That paradox flowed originally out of Rabin's determination not to touch a single settlement as long as he was not totally convinced that the experiment would work.

This is the logic of the interim period of

self-government, which leaves all options open for the permanent status negotiations down the road.

Rabin himself, according to his close aides, has failed during this past year to overcome or even moderate a deep-seated antipathy toward Arafat.

The only chemistry between them is explosive -- as demonstrated at their meeting last month at the Erez checkpoint between Israel and Gaza, when verbal sparks flew.

But these same aides are at pains to stress that Rabin, today as a year ago, recognizes Arafat's unique role as the only man on the Palestinian national movement capable of making decisions -- and making them stick.

Ultimately, the Israeli prime minister believes, Arafat's capabilities will enable the veteran PLO chairman to reach a working accord with the World Bank and individual donor governments that have pledged generous sums of cash to help the Palestinian self-rule get under way.

Peres, Arafat Meet In Oslo

Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met in Oslo on Tuesday to try to reconcile differences that arose at a meeting of donor countries with Palestinians and Israelis in Paris over the weekend.

As happened so often during the year, the sensitive matter of Jerusalem -- ostensibly deferred until the permanent status talks -- insinuated itself onto the agenda and threatened to disrupt the session.

Peres is hardly a personal fan of Arafat's, though his role over this year has often been to soothe tempers and sidestep pitfalls in the Israeli-PLO relationship.

In the final analysis, though, it is Rabin -- just as it was Rabin a year ago -- who alone commands the confidence of the majority of the nation as he moves boldly forward toward far-reaching concessions on all fronts in return for peace.

If he wins the Nobel Prize for Peace -- final deliberations are taking place in Oslo at this time -- it will be as much for leading his country into a brave but unknown future as for his leadership in the actual negotiation with the erstwhile enemy.

With the "Syrian track" suddenly gaining momentum as the anniversary of the Israel-PLO accord rolled around, some Israeli commentators have returned to the much-favored pastime of hypothesizing about what might have been.

They cite reports during 1993 that Rabin himself would have preferred a land-for-peace deal with Syria as his first breakthrough, with the Jordanians to follow and the Palestinians to bring up a weak and divided rear.

The historical reality, however, is that Syrian President Hafez Assad tarried -- indeed he is still tarrying, failing to appreciate Rabin's pressing need to present his public with the new and peaceful horizons he had promised in his election campaign. Arafat, for his part, for once in his life grabbed at the right opportunity at the right moment.

A year ago, there were many -- Israelis, Arabs and third-party observers -- who preferred to maintain their skepticism. Today it is hard to find anyone in political life who seriously believes the clock can ever be turned back.

**JOINING FORCES FOR BUSINESS:
RAHMAN AND KRAMER EYE OLIVE OIL**
By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13 (JTA) -- Mohammad Rahman, a Texas businessman, and Leo Kramer of Washington, D.C., have joined forces to build an olive oil processing plant in the West Bank that will employ 150 Palestinians after construction is completed this fall.

The joint venture is one of seven announced Monday under the auspices of Builders for Peace, a private initiative set up last year to support the Middle East peace process.

A total of 10 American companies have pledged to develop businesses in the autonomous regions of Gaza and Jericho. The companies say they expect to employ over 3,600 Palestinians generating an estimated \$168 million a year.

An agreement clearing the way for the ventures between the Overseas Private Investment Corp., the Palestinians and the American businesses was announced Monday at a ceremony commemorating the first anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Vice President Al Gore, heading the program at the Old Executive Office Building, hailed the programs as "the first in what we hope will be a series of profitable new business ventures."

Noting the Jewish High Holidays, Gore said the holidays "allow us to reflect on the year that has passed," and "cause us to look ahead and make resolutions about what we intend to do to create a future worthy of our children and grandchildren."

Builders for Peace emerged under Gore's leadership last September as a means to build bridges between the American Jewish and Arab communities to shore up private investments in the Palestinian territories.

'Committed To The Long Haul'

Co-chaired by James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute, and former Congressman Mel Levine, Builders for Peace, with the help of loan guarantees from the Overseas Private Investment Corp., have "committed to the long haul," Zogby said.

"These are the building blocks for the future," Zogby said.

Levine said there are many more projects in the pipeline that he expects will come to fruition in the coming months.

Some participants will also receive technical assistance and help with feasibility studies from the United States Trade and Development Agency, the chairmen said.

Among the other projects launched at the ceremony are a \$7 million venture by Astrum International to bottle spring water in Jericho and a \$58 million construction deal to build motels in Gaza by GRdG of Virginia.

Other companies have committed themselves to building a furniture factory, a manufacturing plant for concrete, condominiums and a crude-oil processing plant.

Most of the projects are slated to begin before the first of the year.

About 100 people attended the ceremony, including Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich; Lester Pollack, chairman of the Conference of

Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; and Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Other events held this week to commemorate the Sept. 13 signing of the Declaration of Principles included a luncheon featuring Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and Nabil Sha'ath, minister of planning for the Palestinian Authority.

The luncheon was co-sponsored by the Arab American Institute and Americans for Peace Now.

DUAL CITIZENS ALLOWED INTO JORDAN
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 13 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin this week signed an order allowing Israelis having dual citizenship to travel from Israel to Jordan on their foreign passports.

The move enables Israelis to make the trip to Jordan without having to obtain formal permission from the Interior Ministry.

Travel agents have already reportedly signed up scores of such dual-passport Israelis for visits to Jordan.

When Israel and Jordan signed the July 25 Washington Declaration formally ending their 46-year state of war, Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein agreed to open border crossings to allow third-country nationals to travel between the two countries.

But Israelis holding a second passport were unable to travel to Jordan until now.

In a related development, Israeli and Jordanian negotiators meeting this week at an Israeli cultural center near the Sea of Galilee agreed to open a second border crossing between the two countries.

The crossing, scheduled to be opened in October, will link northern portions of the countries near the Sea of Galilee.

GUATEMALA RETURNS TO JERUSALEM
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 13 (JTA) -- Guatemala is relocating its embassy to Jerusalem, Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio has announced.

Until 1980, the Guatemalan Embassy -- along with 13 other embassies -- was located in Jerusalem.

But after the Knesset passed the Jerusalem Law, declaring Jerusalem to be Israel's capital, Arab pressure led the embassies to relocate to the Tel Aviv area.

Guatemala joins Costa Rica and El Salvador, which returned their embassies to Jerusalem in the early 1980s.

Reacting to the Guatemalan government's decision, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said it "views this symbolic -- but politically important -- step with great satisfaction and believes that, in light of the positive changes taking place in our region, other nations will follow in Guatemala's footsteps."

Due to the Yom Kippur and Sukkot holidays, JTA will not publish a Daily News Bulletin on the following dates: Sept. 15, Sept. 16, Sept. 21, Sept. 28, and Sept. 29.

EXPERTS DEBATE JEWISH VIEW ON USE OF ANIMALS IN MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Sept. 13 (JTA) -- The Torah mandates the humane treatment of animals. Dozens of biblical and rabbinic laws detail the ways in which respect for animals is to be extended.

But debate rages among the authorities as to whether the prohibition against cruelty to animals means they have the right not to be used for medical experimentation or whether the very notion of animal rights is antithetical to Jewish law.

"It is absolutely a misreading of Torah literature to speak of animal rights," said Rabbi Moshe Tendler, professor of Talmudic law and chairman of the biology department at Yeshiva University, and a leading expert on Jewish medical ethics.

"Animals were given in this world to serve man, and that hierarchy is a fundamental belief in Torah Judaism.

"There are no animal rights, but human obligations, which are to use animals for the benefit of man according to prohibitions against causing animals pain and against wastefulness," said Tendler.

Regarding the use of animals in medical experimentation or organ transplant, Tendler said emphatically: "The greatest mitzvah a person can do is to use an animal to save a human life."

He said the conditions under which animals are kept and used in medical research laboratories today fulfill Jewish injunctions about the humane treatment of animals.

Others disagree.

"In the Jewish view, dominion is an issue of stewardship, not a license to exploit. The relationship between humans and animals in the Bible is one of symbiosis in a respectful way," said Dr. Stephen Kaufman, an ophthalmologist who co-chairs an anti-vivisection organization of doctors called the Medical Research Modernization Committee.

'Showed Compassion To A Lamb'

"I have not met one scientist who is a vegetarian, which you would think would be a moral imperative for anyone who claims to kill animals only when necessary, even if they believe in experimenting on animals to save human lives," said Kaufman.

According to Richard Schwartz, founder of Jewish Vegetarians of North America and author of "Judaism and Vegetarianism," animal experimentation is not in concert with the kindness toward animals illustrated often in traditional Jewish literature.

"There is a midrash that our greatest leader, Moses, was chosen because he showed compassion to a lamb," said Schwartz.

"The test for choosing a spouse, for kindness, was demonstrated when Abraham's servant Eliezer went to find a wife for Isaac and she (Rebecca) gave water to his animal. That story is told four times," he said, underlining the emphasis Torah places on the kind treatment of animals.

Roberta Kalechofsky, founder and president of Jews for Animal Rights, said, "Animal research has done more harm than good. It leads to re-

search on human beings, like in the concentration camps."

Kalechofsky published "Judaism & Animal Rights" in 1992 under her Micah Publications imprint. According to Kalechofsky, other methods of scientific inquiry, like epidemiology, which is the study of patterns of disease in populations, and use of computer models, can today effectively replace the use of animals in medical research.

Tendler disagreed.

"Anyone who studies clinical medicine realizes it is necessary to use animal experimentation. Without it we could not have developed many areas of medicine," he said.

"No one (in medical research today) uses animals when there is another alternative," said Tendler. "Nobody wants to use live animals because it's too darn expensive. When you can use tissue culture to test microbes, you do," he said.

According to Dr. Fred Rosner, an international authority on Jewish medical ethics, "Animal protection groups say that all animal experimentation is not necessary, and that's not true."

For example, he said, "many trials need the use of mice and rats for tests of chemotherapy. We start with tissue culture, then go to mice and rats and then to humans. It would be wrong to follow the animal rights groups' advice and go from tissue culture to human beings and kill human beings."

Rosner is director of the department of medicine at Mt. Sinai Services at Queens Hospital Center in New York and professor of medicine at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine.

"Until genetic engineering became available in the last decade or so, all insulin was made from pork and beef pancreases. Should we have let people die instead?" Rosner asked.

"Animal experimentation is very clear from a Jewish perspective. We are required to use plants, animals, anything God put on this earth to find cures for human illness and to prolong life," he said.

JEWES JOIN EFFORT TO COMBAT THREAT OF NEO-FASCISM IN FORMER SOVIET UNION

By Lisa Glazer

MOSCOW, Sept. 13 (JTA) -- Jewish organizations and activists are joining a new effort intended to counter the rising threat of neo-fascism in Russia.

About 100 prominent human rights activists, lawyers, writers and trade union leaders attended a planning session held last week at the offices of the Moscow News, a local newspaper, to discuss practical methods to counter the growth of fascist organizations and publications in Russia.

Among the ideas presented at the meeting was the suggestion that a new television program be launched to inform the public about the activities of Russian neo-fascist organizations.

Another proposal called for the establishment of a working committee that would pursue anti-fascist legislation in Russia's Parliament.

Attendees also discussed the idea of organizing an international anti-fascist conference to be held in Moscow next year.

Alla Gerber, a Jewish member of Russia's Parliament, was among those participating in the meeting, which also drew representatives from the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.