

**ISRAEL AND JORDAN SIGN PEACE TREATY,  
HERALDING 'A NEW DAY' IN THE MIDEAST**  
By Cynthia Mann

ARAVA CROSSING, Israel, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Beneath a burning midday desert sun, on a hastily constructed plaza that had only weeks ago been a minefield, Israel and Jordan made peace Wednesday.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Salam al-Majali signed a peace treaty in the presence of some 5,000 spectators, with President Clinton acting as witness. Jordan's King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan and Israel's President Ezer Weizman also presided over the ceremony.

The site, in the Arava desert straddling the Israeli-Jordanian border, was bedecked with flags, balloons and a banner proclaiming peace in three languages.

The mood was festive and hopeful, with speakers heralding the dawn of a new era in the relations of the two peoples and among all the nations in the region.

Nevertheless, in a sharp reminder of opposition to the accord, residents of the Galilee watched the ceremony from their bomb shelters, as shells from Lebanon fell near their homes. No injuries were reported.

The treaty, which was also initialed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, marked the second time that Israel has made peace with an Arab neighbor. Israel and Egypt signed a peace accord in 1979.

In many ways, Wednesday's signing seemed a formal declaration of a de facto peace. This in light of the long history of secret contacts between Israel and Jordan, as well as the virtual state of non-belligerency that has existed between the two countries for the past two decades.

The warmth of the peace to come was reflected in the leaders' remarks.

**'A New Day Has Begun'**

Rabin and Hussein praised each other's courage to pursue peace. They also drew on the surrounding desert landscape as a metaphor for the peace that will blossom between Israel and Jordan.

"This great valley in which we stand will become the valley of peace. When we come together to build it and to make it bloom as never before, when we come to live together as never before, we will be doing so, Israelis and Jordanians together, without the need for any to observe our actions or supervise our endeavors," Hussein said.

Using the barren desert and minefields surrounding the site as symbols of the past relations between Israel and Jordan, Rabin said the birth of peace was a blessing for all.

"A dawn has broken this moment and a new day has begun. Babies were born in Jerusalem, and babies were born in Amman," the prime minister said. "The peace that was born today

gives us all the hope that the children born today will never know war between us, and their mothers will know no sorrow."

Clinton also called on the desert imagery. "This vast bleak desert hides great signs of life," he said.

"Today we see the proof of it, for peace between Jordan and Israel is no longer a mirage. It is real. It will take root in this soil. It will grow to great heights and shelter generations to come."

Clinton also urged the two sides to continue the struggle against terror. "The forces of terror will try to hold you back. Already they take deadly aim at the future of peace and in their zeal to kill hope and keep hatred alive they would deny all that peace can bring to your children. We cannot, we must not, we will not let them succeed."

Quoting from the Book of Matthew, Clinton said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall inherit the Earth."

**Fallen Soldiers Remembered**

Both the Israeli prime minister and Jordanian king, who had previously led their countries in war, took care to honor those who had fallen in the battles between their countries.

In Israel on Wednesday, at Rabin's behest, thousands of soldiers and schoolchildren marked the day of peace with an homage to those who had fallen in war.

They fanned out to 540 cemeteries throughout the country to lay wreaths on the graves of the 18,064 Israelis who have fallen in battle or terrorist attacks since the establishment of the state.

At the ceremony, Hussein said, "We will always cherish the memory and honor all those who have fallen over the years, from amongst all of our peoples."

Prior to the ceremony, Clinton, Hussein, Rabin and the other dignitaries mingled in a carpeted goat's hair tent, exchanging warm grins and handshakes.

The ceremony began with readings from the Koran and the Bible, and a minute's silence in memory of the war dead of both countries.

An Israeli and Jordanian girl, each of whom lost a grandfather in Israeli-Jordanian wars, presented bouquets to the leaders.

"I'm very excited," said 8-year-old Li Lotan, whose grandfather Giora was killed in the battle for Jerusalem during the 1967 Six-Day War.

For some of the guests at the ceremony, the pain of losing a loved one in the Arab-Israeli conflict had not yet gained the distance of time. Among them was the father of Nachshon Waxman, who was kidnapped and murdered by Hamas members earlier this month.

"Nachshon, in his personality from the youngest age, hated fights, hated discord," Yehuda Waxman told Israel Television. "If he were alive he would see this as a great day. At this moment I do not look back. I ask the whole nation to see this as a holiday."

For Isaac Herzog, the 34-year-old son of

Israel's former President Chaim Herzog, the day brought back childhood memories of living through Jordanian shelling from Kalkilya during the Six-Day War.

"We stayed throughout the war in trenches. There were no (bomb) shelters then," he said. "What different memories my children will have."

Several American Jewish leaders were also present.

Lynn Lyss, chair of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said she was "overwhelmed" by the ceremony, which "proved that despite the terror, we will persevere. We have to go forward."

Lyss was one of about 50 Jewish and Arab Americans invited to accompany the president to the region.

Traveling with the Arab Americans was "a marvelous and warm experience," said Lyss. "I feel I've made new friends (and) it's sad when I think we've been kept apart so long."

Lyss said there was an interdenominational prayer service aboard the plane which was especially meaningful.

"It infused" the politics "with a sense of spirituality," she said.

Nathan Sharony, president of Israel Bonds, said, "I made the trip from America especially for this. It's a major step in the direction of eliminating the chain of hostility around us."

"Two links of the chain already have peace, Jordan and Egypt, and it puts us in a position to promise our children a better future," Sharony said.

#### Arafat Pledges To Fight Terror

Lester Pollack, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, said, "The ceremony proves the peace process continues despite the desperate acts of terrorists to derail the train. The courage of the king of Jordan to press forward serves as a model."

Also among the guests was former Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who was warmly greeted by King Hussein after the ceremony.

"It was like a reunion of sorts," Shamir later told Israel Radio. Asked why he went to the ceremony, he replied, "Just to see for myself."

Following the ceremony, Rabin and Clinton had lunch with Hussein in Aqaba, Jordan. Clinton was to continue to Amman, where he was scheduled to address the Jordanian Parliament.

Parliament members opposed to the accord were boycotting the speech.

Earlier in the day, Clinton held talks in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat.

After the meeting, Clinton said he was satisfied with the PLO leader's pledge to fight against terror, and against Hamas in particular.

Arafat was not invited to the ceremony in the Arava.

In the Gaza Strip, the PLO leader lashed out at the treaty, particularly for its recognition of Jordan's historic role as guardian of the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

Shops were closed in the West Bank and Gaza in response to a strike called by the PLO and Hamas.

*(JTA correspondent Naomi Segal in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)*

#### ISRAELI-JORDANIAN TREATY GUARANTEES NORMALIZATION BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- In the peace treaty signed Wednesday by Israel and Jordan, the two sides pledged to achieve and guard a peace based on liberty, equality, justice, honor and basic rights.

What follows are key points of the agreement between the two countries, based on reports in the Israeli media:

**Border demarcation:** Israel will return more than 120 square miles of previously disputed land to Jordan. The two countries agreed to overall boundary definitions created in 1921 during the period of the British Mandate.

They also agreed that Israeli farmers would not be forced off lands currently being cultivated. Jordan accepted some 12 square miles of land in the Arava in exchange for these lands.

Other areas will come under Jordanian sovereignty, but will be immediately leased back to Israel for a period of 25 years, with an option to renew. These areas include 500 acres farmed by Kibbutz Tzofar in the Arava and 200 acres near the Yarmuk River at Naharayim in the north. Israeli police will be allowed to enter these areas with weapons for self-defense.

**Water:** Israel agreed to provide Jordan annually with 1.4 billion cubic feet of water from the Yarmuk River. Israel will provide an additional 350 million cubic feet of water to Jordan from desalination of brackish water sources near the Sea of Galilee.

In addition, the two countries will construct two dams on the Yarmuk and Jordan rivers. The two sides will seek international financing for these projects, which could yield an additional 3.5 billion cubic feet of water annually.

**Security:** Neither side will join alliances that could threaten the security of the other. They also agreed not to allow other nations to deploy within their borders to threaten or attack the other country.

The two countries also agreed to take all necessary and effective measures to counter terrorism.

**Refugees:** Israel agreed to consult with Jordan before it negotiates the fate of refugees from the 1948 War of Independence, an issue Israel is scheduled to discuss in the final-status talks with the Palestinians. Those talks are scheduled to begin by May 1996.

**Normalization:** Israel and Jordan will establish full diplomatic and consular relations. They will appoint ambassadors to the other country within one month after the treaty is ratified by their respective parliaments. The normalization of ties will also include economic and cultural links.

**Jerusalem:** In keeping with the Washington Declaration signed by Israel and Jordan in July, Israel will honor the Hashemite Kingdom's historic role as guardian over Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem. Israel will give Jordan stewardship over these sites high priority during the permanent-status talks with the Palestinians.

**Travel:** Each side will grant citizens of the other country free movement on its roads and will not place any limitations on free travel between the two countries.

*(JTA correspondent Naomi Segal in Jerusalem compiled this report.)*

## BUDGET ISSUES AND CHOOSING NEW CHAIR TOP AGENDA AT JEWISH AGENCY MEETINGS

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Budget problems and the selection of a chairman topped the official and unofficial agenda of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors meeting here this week.

With Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz on trial for fraud and abuse of the public trust, the board once again extended the acting chairmanship of Yehiel Leket until February, when it was agreed a permanent chairman will be installed.

At the same time, sources say the Diaspora fund-raisers privately decided they would not support Leket for the permanent post and are seeking a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to express their support for other candidates.

Agency rules call for Rabin, as head of the Labor Party, to put forward the candidate or candidates for chairman. The candidates must then be approved by the party's central committee.

The Israeli and Diaspora members of the World Zionist Organization then select the final candidate, who must be ratified by the Diaspora fund-raisers under the leadership of the chairman of the Board of Governors, Mendel Kaplan.

At the current meeting, the Zionist General Council, the ruling body of the WZO, called on the Board of Governors to approve Leket as the permanent chairman.

The Council claimed the Agency is being hurt by the failure to appoint a permanent head. But its move was seen mostly as a vote of confidence for Leket and had little impact.

For his part, Leket says he is not yet a candidate and has not actively campaigned for the post. But he has clearly hoped that his performance as acting chairman would win him the support of skeptics who say he does not have the necessary "stature" for the job.

"Of course I want to be permanent chairman," said Leket this week. "I feel I'm the right man at the right time and the right place" and "I think I proved what I can do."

But, he added, "I have always said if a better candidate will be introduced I myself will consider supporting him."

### Funds Haven't Met Projections

Meanwhile, the Jewish Agency was grappling with the fact that this year's income from the fund-raising campaigns has not met projections. Departments had to scale down their planned programs as a result.

The income for this budget year from the United Jewish Appeal campaign alone is about \$200 million, down from the \$218 million projected by the fund-raisers and the \$230 million projected by the Jewish Agency.

Many of the Israelis have expressed anger that more money has not been raised and more of the pie has not been allocated to Israel, while the fund-raisers say the needs and concerns of American Jewish donors are changing.

"Every year you fight for your budget but this year there's a difference," said David Harman, director-general of the Joint Authority for Jewish Zionist Education. "The subtext is the essence of the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora.

"The Jewish Agency system was conceived as a partnership of Israel and the Diaspora," Harman continued, "and there is a growing feeling (among the Israelis) that as far as the Americans are concerned, the kind of relationship envisioned is becoming less and less attractive."

In any case, no Jewish Agency activities will be eliminated as a result of the budget approved for next year, according to Treasurer Hanan Ben-Yehuda.

While the operating budget will decrease from \$506 million in 1994 to \$463 million in 1995, much of the difference will be made up by the decision to have no debt retirement, he said.

In 1994, \$35 million went to the debt.

## HUSSEIN PROMISES 'VERY WARM PEACE' IN INTERVIEW WITH ISRAELI JOURNALIST

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- In an interview published here this week, Jordanian King Hussein promised Israel "a very warm peace" and a major effort to curb Islamic militants operating against Israel from his kingdom.

The pledges appeared in an interview published Tuesday by the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot.

In the interview, which was conducted in his palace in Amman, King Hussein rejected criticism from Syrian President Hafez Assad that the treaty was "blasphemous."

"Nobody in the world will teach me what Islam is and what my belief is.

"Let them show me where it is written that Islam is against peace and coexistence between nations," Hussein said.

Assad has been openly critical of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty, particularly of clauses allowing Israel to lease indefinitely two parcels of Jordanian land.

"I would expect (Assad) first of all to read the agreement and afterward to criticize it," said Hussein. "The agreement is our business," he added pointedly.

Hussein described his expectations for the new relations with Israel as "a very special peace.

"There will be no international police or American units on our border," Hussein said.

"I think it will be a very warm peace," he said, using wording that touches a chord with Israelis, who complain that the peace with Egypt has been "cold."

Asked how he would deal with the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, which maintains a base in Amman, Hussein said he would "do everything in our power that there will be no activities from Jordanian territory."

Meanwhile, Syria has for the second time this year said it will allow Israeli journalists into the country, diplomatic sources said.

The government gave permission for two Israeli reporters to enter the country on American passports with the White House press corps for President Clinton's visit Thursday, the sources said.

Syrian officials initially refused to give entry permission to Avinoam Bar-Yosef, of the Ma'ariv daily newspaper, and Haim Shibi, of Yediot Achronot, but they relented after U.S. officials insisted.

**KLARSFELD PUBLISHES NEW BOOK DETAILING DEPORTATIONS OF FRENCH JEWISH CHILDREN**  
By Michel Di Paz

PARIS, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- According to French Nazi hunter and lawyer Serge Klarsfeld, 11,104 Jewish children were arrested and deported from France to their deaths in Nazi extermination camps during World War II.

The figure appears in a book by Klarsfeld that was published this week and which contains the names and, in many cases, photographs of the young victims.

The book, "Memorial to the Jewish Children Deported from France," was created with the help of his organization, the Sons and Daughters of Jews Deported from France, and provides a close-up view of the deportations, even going so far as to provide the exact addresses where the Jewish children were arrested.

"This is not a book of death, but a book of life," Klarsfeld said in an interview. "It is as if the over 1,500 children photographed were testifying at the witness stand about the crimes committed against them."

"We wanted to save the memory of those children from oblivion," he said.

He also had another goal in mind in writing the book: to set the record straight about the extent to which the wartime Vichy regime supported the Nazi program to exterminate European Jewry.

"We also wished to make it impossible to rehabilitate the Vichy regime, which helped the Nazis in their anti-Jewish actions. Let us not forget that at least 75 percent of those children were arrested by the French police," Klarsfeld said.

**Believes Papon Will Be Tried**

According to Klarsfeld, Rene Bousquet, Vichy's police chief between 1942 and 1944, can be held personally responsible for almost 7,000 deportations.

Formally charged with the deportation of 2,000 Jewish children, Bousquet was shot dead at the age of 82 in June 1993 by a non-Jewish self-styled avenger.

Klarsfeld also spoke during the interview about the possibility of bringing to trial Maurice Papon, the last remaining French citizen who has been indicted for crimes against humanity.

Papon was a high-ranking member of the French administration in charge of the Bordeaux area in southwestern France. At a time when his region was not yet occupied by the Nazis, he signed orders to arrest and deport 1,690 Jews, most of whom never returned from the Nazi death camps.

Many here think that Papon, 84, will never be brought to trial, but Klarsfeld believes that the judge in the case will decide in favor of a trial.

"This would be a major success," Klarsfeld said. "Given the delays of the justice system," Papon could well die before legal proceedings are brought against him.

To date, only one French citizen, Paul Touvier, has been convicted of crimes against humanity. Touvier was sentenced to life imprisonment in April for his role in the assassination of seven Jewish hostages in Rillieux-la-Pape, located

near Lyon in southeastern France, on June 29, 1944. Touvier was then local head of the intelligence service of the militia, the 30,000-member collaborationist civilian armed force created by the Vichy regime.

Another Frenchman, Jean Leguay, was indicted in 1979 for organizing the first mass roundup of Jews in France in 1942. He died of natural causes in 1989 at the age of 79.

Reflecting on his Nazi-hunting activities, Klarsfeld said, "Our work is practically done."

During the interview, Klarsfeld said he disagreed with the opinion that most French people supported Vichy's anti-Semitic policies.

"The conclusions I am drawing at the bottom line of this book is that no other country in Europe protected its Jews and particularly the Jewish children the way France did," he said.

"We can come up with actual figures. In Italy or in Belgium, 20 percent of the Jews deported were children, while in France, they were only -- if we may use this word -- about 13 percent."

But, added Klarsfeld, after the summer of 1942, "the French witnessed the arrest of whole families.

"Before that, the French were numbed by their defeat (at the hands of the Nazis), and they accepted without any special displeasure the confiscation of Jewish belongings and the anti-Jewish discriminations."

But "when the French authorities started to arrest families, the situation changed," he said.

"Memorial to the Jewish Children Deported from France" is not the first book Klarsfeld has written about the deportations of French children.

Klarsfeld, whose father died in Auschwitz, wrote "The Children of Izieu: A Jewish Tragedy," published in 1984, which tells the story of the deportation to Auschwitz of 44 Jewish children and seven adults from the French village of Izieu.

**COMMEMORATION HELD IN HOLLAND FOR DUTCH VICTIM OF TEL AVIV BLAST**  
By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- A commemoration was held this week for the 21 Israelis and the single Dutch victim who died in the Oct. 19 suicide bombing of a bus in the heart of Tel Aviv.

Among those attending Sunday's ceremony at the Ashkenazic synagogue in The Hague were Dutch Interior Minister Hans Dijkstal, Israeli Ambassador Michael Bawly and the parents of 25-year-old Dutch physiotherapist Rinier Yurest, who died in the blast.

The commemoration was organized jointly by the Ashkenazic and Liberal rabbis of The Hague and Rotterdam.

Visibly moved, Bawly said the victims of the bus bombing "fell not in the defense of Israel, but because there is a monster that is blinded by a morbid hatred of the Jewish people."

The Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, which is militantly opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian peace initiative, claimed responsibility for the bus attack.

Addressing the bereaved parents of Yurest, who was not Jewish, Bawly said, "Your son has been murdered only because he wanted to be with us."