

**ISRAEL SENDS BIG ENTOURAGE
TO CASABLANCA ECONOMIC SUMMIT**

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- The historic economic summit that opened Sunday night in Casablanca included an Israeli delegation comprising no less than seven government ministers, members of the Knesset, as well as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The Israeli delegates were in the company of more than 720 politicians from 60 countries and 1,200 top executives from private enterprises in the Arab world, the United States, Europe and the Far East.

The three-day Middle East-North Africa Economic Summit, hosted by King Hassan of Morocco, was hailed as a first-of-its-kind meeting to consolidate peace in the region through economic cooperation and development.

At the opening of the conference, King Hassan said the conference would strengthen peace and enable residents of the region to live in harmony.

Hassan congratulated Rabin, Peres and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat, who also attended the conference, for being named co-recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. The king also hailed the peace treaty signed last week by Israel and Jordan.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher called on the Arab countries to end their economic boycott against Israel. He also emphasized the importance of investment -- in particular from the private sector -- to fortify peace in the region.

Rabin Calls For International Investments

Arafat said he hoped the 21st century would see the establishment of a Palestinian state, and he stressed the importance of economic strength in forming the basis for regional peace.

In his remarks, Rabin thanked King Hassan for his role in nurturing the Middle East peace process.

"I came to you 18 years ago, disguised, in secret, in search of peace," the prime minister said. He was referring to his secret visit to Morocco in November 1977, a move that led the way for the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the signing of a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979.

Rabin called on the international business community to invest in the autonomous Palestinian zones of the Gaza Strip and West Bank Jericho district as a means for overcoming terror and forming a strong economic life for Palestinians.

"Poverty is the fertile ground" for the Islamic Jihad, Rabin said, referring to one of the fundamentalist Muslim groups opposed to Israel's ongoing peace initiative with the Palestinians.

All countries from the Middle East and North Africa took part in the summit, with the exceptions of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria and Lebanon. Syrian and Lebanese businesspeople were reportedly participating in a private capacity.

The conference represents a landmark for Israel, which was for the first time welcomed at the highest level in an Arab country as an equal partner.

Israeli and Arab business leaders came equipped with proposals for specific investment and cooperation projects.

Israel is proposing more than 100 joint projects worth about \$25 billion, half of them for water projects, Israel Radio reported.

Other Israeli proposals include a cooperative project for tourist development in the Red Sea area. Israel Television reported that Egyptian and Jordanian participants brought with them similar proposals.

The economic summit is seen as another step toward ending the Arab economic boycott of Israel, with Peres saying the conference essentially ended the boycott in practice.

"It is impossible to have such a conference and continue the Arab boycott," he said.

Syria, in deciding not to formally attend the conference, complained that it would weaken the economic boycott as a bargaining chip in negotiations.

**ISRAEL TO EASE RESTRICTIONS
ON WORKERS FROM TERRITORIES**

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Israel has decided to ease restrictions that were imposed on Palestinian workers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the aftermath of a recent wave of terrorist incidents.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced the move Sunday after meeting with Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Joined by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the leaders met at a villa in a Casablanca suburb shortly before Morocco's King Hassan officially opened a historic international conference to plan the economic future of the Middle East and North Africa.

Rabin had ordered the closure of Gaza and the West Bank as a security measure to ease the fears of Israelis following the Oct. 19 suicide bus bombing in the heart of Tel Aviv that claimed the lives of 22 victims and left more than 40 injured.

Despite the insistence of Israeli officials that the closure was a necessary step to prevent further terrorist attacks, Arafat had maintained that it represented economic warfare on the nascent Palestinian autonomy.

Aides to the PLO chairman said the success of the Casablanca conference would be threatened if the closure continued. They also said the closure was blocking the way for continued negotiations on implementing the Palestinian self-rule accord.

After meeting with Arafat, Rabin, who also serves as defense minister, told reporters that a gradual easing of the closure would begin Tuesday.

But he warned that the closure could be reimposed if Arafat did not crack down on the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, which

claimed responsibility for the bus bombing and other recent terror attacks on Israelis.

"Until we succeed at preventing murderous attacks," the prime minister said, "we will feel free to do whatever is needed to protect the lives of Israelis."

Israel meanwhile has arrested some 150 Hamas activists in response to the recent terror attacks, according to an Israel Radio report. At least half of those detained would be held without trial under emergency regulations, the report said.

Rabin also told reporters that Israel would work to accelerate the transfer of authority to the Palestinians for management of social policy in the West Bank in the areas of health, taxation, tourism and social welfare.

But he also said the success of the so-called "early empowerment" for Palestinians depends on foreign donor countries providing the necessary funds to administer these areas of social policy.

Rabin and Arafat also agreed to postpone negotiations on Palestinian elections, according to Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

The fifth round of negotiations was scheduled to begin Monday in Cairo, but was put off until next week because of the Casablanca economic conference.

Rabin and Arafat agreed to meet next week at the Erez border crossing between Israel and Gaza to discuss matters relating to implementation of Palestinian self-rule, including the elections.

Sunday's talks between Rabin, Arafat and Peres represented the first time the three met since they were named co-winners of the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize in mid-October.

Israel's participation at the Casablanca conference has been cited by observers as proof of the Jewish state's growing acceptance in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Peres, a driving force behind the conference, said at a news briefing Sunday that regional economic development would help eradicate the causes of the ongoing violence and terror launched by those opposed to the Middle East peace process.

"Israel should not remain an island of prosperity in a sea of poverty," said Peres, who added that without economic cooperation, "there is no validity to the peace for the man in the street in Amman or in Gaza."

The three-day Casablanca conference began Sunday -- exactly three years after the start of the Madrid Conference, which launched the peace process between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

A second economic conference is scheduled for next April in Amman, Jordan.

CLINTON OFFERS PRAYER OF HOPE DURING HIS VISIT TO YAD VASHEM

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- President Clinton concluded his trip to Israel last week with a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, where he expressed the hope that the Jewish people will never again "suffer and die because of their race or their faith."

Accompanied by Israeli President Ezer Weizman and Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev, Clinton took part in a memorial ceremony at the Ohel Yizkor Memorial Hall, where the names of Nazi death camps are etched into the floor.

During the ceremony last Friday, Clinton rekindled the Eternal Flame and laid a wreath at the symbolic grave for the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

The U.S. president put on a skullcap and bowed his head when Kaddish was recited for the victims of the Holocaust.

Clinton then continued to the memorial for the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust. Emerging from the dark chamber with its thousands of flickering lights, the president remarked that it was "an extremely moving experience."

Clinton, who earlier in the week attended the historic signing of Israel's peace treaty with Jordan, inscribed a message of hope in the Yad Vashem visitors book.

"Today we have come one step closer to the time when the people of Israel will live in peace with all of their neighbors, when the awful events of death and destruction memorialized here will be banished to the past," he wrote.

Shalev, who has guided other world leaders through the halls of Yad Vashem, said later that Clinton had asked many questions about the Holocaust during the tour.

"He was one of the more interested and warm visitors I have met," Shalev told reporters.

Clinton toured Yad Vashem after attending an early morning breakfast with Weizman, following which he told reporters that he would not rule out the possibility of returning to the region soon to help move the peace process along.

Clinton also said that he had promised Weizman to do all in his power to get information about Israeli MIAs from Syrian President Hafez Assad, whom Clinton met with during his tour of the Middle East.

Weizman said such information would be regarded by Israel as a confidence-building gesture on the part of the Syrians.

It was also announced that the Israeli president and his wife, Reuma, would make a state visit to Washington early next year.

ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- One Israeli soldier was killed and two others lightly wounded Saturday when terrorists from the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah movement unsuccessfully attempted to overrun an Israeli position in the southern Lebanon security zone.

Staff Sgt. Almog Klein, from Moshav Shafir in the northern Negev, was killed when a mortar shell fell next to the position where he was standing guard.

He was laid to rest Sunday afternoon.

Klein was a month short of his 21st birthday and completion of his military service.

The wounded soldiers were treated in the field, in the eastern sector of the zone, and later evacuated by helicopter to a government hospital in Safed.

Israeli military sources described Saturday's attack as one of the fiercest launched at positions of the Israel Defense Force and its allied South Lebanon Army.

The fighting in southern Lebanon, which began a day after President Clinton completed a visit to the region, continued through Sunday.

**JEWISH RELIEF EFFORTS FOR RWANDA:
'PIED PIPER' OF A RWANDAN
REFUGEE CAMP WEARS A YARMULKE**
[Part 1 of 2]
By Deborah Kazis

GOMA, Zaire, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- In the middle of the Kibumba refugee camp here, Dr. Rick Hodes, a slim American doctor wearing a yarmulke and a light-blue windbreaker, can be seen darting in and out of the hospital tents.

The rainy season has begun, adding to the misery of the 850,000 refugees who have fled the civil war in their native Rwanda, arriving in this border town in eastern Zaire.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has established a humanitarian presence here, opening a hospital in the Kibumba refugee camp. It is one of five camps in the area that is home to 160,000 refugees, most of them children.

The hospital, formed in partnership with the International Rescue Committee, is a complex of tents, erected on a cleared dirt site. It currently has 110 beds and is expanding.

There are 50,000 refugees in the area of the camp for which the JDC's medical team is responsible. Hodes, 41, heads the ongoing medical program, which is supported by a coalition of 35 American Jewish organizations.

During the height of the Rwandan crisis this past summer, the JDC received close to \$1 million in special funds for the refugees and is still getting thousands of dollars a week. Besides Hodes' medical team, the American Jewish groups and Israel are sponsoring relief efforts in Bukavu, Zaire, led by Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan.

A low stone wall separates the hospital from the rest of the Kibumba refugee camp, creating an oasis of calm, order and hope amid a sea of chaos, desperation and disease.

As Hodes wanders through the camp, he greets the refugees in their native language, and they smile. Groups of children follow him as he weaves through the huts on his rounds.

He seems very much the Pied Piper of Kibumba -- with a yarmulke.

No Stranger To Difficult Conditions

It is not always easy to be a religious Jew in Goma, but Hodes seems to take it in stride. There is no way to get kosher food, so here he is a vegetarian.

"For Sukkot I had 26,000 sukkahs," he said, laughingly referring to the camp's huts. "But on Yom Kippur I worked. I had to work, we had so many people. But I fasted, of course."

Hodes, originally a New Yorker, is no stranger to difficult working conditions. He was in charge of the JDC's medical program for Ethiopian Jews in Addis Ababa for the past five years.

He recalled that "when I got here in late July, there was still a lot of cholera and we had no proper site. We went out in the field like combat medics. Ironically, the strongest were able to get to the hospital down the road, and the sickest were dying in their tents.

"There used to be hundreds of bodies on the road every day. Now people are getting stronger, their health is getting better. The statistics in our area are better than in the other camps, lower than 1.6 deaths per 10,000," Hodes said.

With many of the refugees fearing for their

lives if they return home to Rwanda, relief efforts are now shifting from emergency treatment to longer-term medical care.

Hodes and his team treat about 500 people per day, now mainly for dehydration, shigella, bloody diarrhea, malaria and meningitis.

Here in Goma, a hospital is not a sterile, quiet, steel and concrete building with lots of medicines and equipment. Rather, it is a refuge, with clean water, soap and people who care.

"I delivered this baby today," Hodes said, pointing to a woman wrapped in a blanket hugging a newborn to her breast. "The mother just wandered in this morning. The word got out that if they deliver here they get a free blanket."

Leaving the refugee camps to make the three-hour drive from Goma to the Rwandan capital of Kigali, one crosses stunningly beautiful countryside that marks a stark contrast with the human misery left behind.

The modern road, along which many of the refugees fled on foot to Goma, weaves through the mountains. Endless streams of people walk along the road. Children hurry along cattle and goats. When it begins to rain, people cover their heads with giant banana tree leaves.

There are numerous desperate humanitarian needs in Rwanda, but the most tragic are those of the estimated 100,000 children who are now alone here.

Children Saw Families Brutally Killed

Their parents have either been slaughtered or were lost in the chaos. Often, these children saw their entire families being hacked to death with machetes. The ones who survived managed to hide, or were left for dead.

The lucky ones live in makeshift orphanages hastily set up by local volunteers. Here babies and children with blank eyes sit in the dirt or play in muddy streams of water. Tiny boys and girls with stomachs swollen from malnutrition wait patiently for food and water.

The local volunteers, aided by international organizations, try to care for the children as best they can, but there is often barely any food and no running water within miles.

JDC has just started providing assistance to improve the living conditions of orphans in the Kibungo region of Rwanda.

"One of Rwanda's most serious problems is the children," said Manlio Dell'Ariccia, a senior JDC staff member who recently visited Rwanda. "According to Jewish tradition, children should always be the priority, and I think it is fitting that we use the money given to us for Rwanda to improve the children's lives."

While Kigali today appears calm, there is evidence everywhere of the massacres that took place in April when up to 1 million Tutsi were slaughtered by their Hutu neighbors.

Bullet holes riddle homes, and it seems as if every door in the city is splintered, their locks hacked off with machetes.

Jewish relief workers here bring a unique perspective to their work, and many are comparing the genocide here to the Holocaust.

Stefanie Sobel, 28, an American who grew up in Israel, works in Kigali with the International Rescue Committee. "Because I'm Jewish, I think my reaction is stronger, or maybe more personal, than some of the other people's here," she said.

RABBI SHLOMO GOREN DEAD AT 77; WAS A COLORFUL, CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Rabbi Shlomo Goren, a former chief rabbi of Israel and one of the country's most colorful and controversial religious figures, died Saturday night of a heart attack at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital. He was 77 years old.

He fell ill Friday night, as he made kiddush with his family at his home in Tel Aviv. He was admitted to the hospital's cardiac intensive care unit, where he died at 2 a.m. Saturday.

His funeral cortege left Sunday from the Tel Aviv Komemiyut Synagogue, which he had established, to the Mount of Olives cemetery in Jerusalem, where a large crowd assembled.

Goren was a forceful religious presence, particularly opposing Israel's accord with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Goren even issued what amounted to a death warrant this past June against PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

And he called for a day of fasting to protest "an agreement that has no halachic validity."

He also issued a ruling that soldiers should disobey orders rather than help oust Jewish settlers from the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Despite his rulings on the West Bank and Gaza, however, Goren was prepared to hand back much of the Golan Heights, which he did not regard as part of the biblical Land of Israel.

In 1986, Goren sharply criticized an Interior Ministry regulation that the word "converted" be stamped next to "Jewish" on converts' identity cards, saying halacha forbids stigmatizing a convert.

Goren's history paralleled Israel's. He was the first Israel Defense Force military chaplain and established the army's Chaplaincy Corps.

He was also known for his physical exploits.

Religious Ruling Regarded As Innovative

An avid parachutist, Goren arrived at the cave at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls had been discovered, dangling on a rope from a hovering helicopter, in order to retrieve 2,000-year-old skeletons for religious burial.

During the Six-Day War, the rabbi advanced through Jerusalem with the IDF troops and was among the first to reach the Western Wall. A photograph of the rabbi clutching a Torah in one hand and blowing a shofar with the other became famous.

Despite controversy, many of his religious responses were seen as innovative and modern.

He wrote a work on the religious law concerning the Temple Mount, ruling that there are areas on it where Jews may pray and that it is in fact desirable. This was important because the area had been declared off-limits to Jews, as it had been the site of the Holy Ark, which could be entered only by Kohanim, or high priests.

He also fashioned much of the halachic observance in the army and wrote numerous halachic responses relating to religious observance during active warfare.

His rulings also eased the plight of war agunot, women whose missing husbands' deaths could not be confirmed and who thus could not remarry until proof of death was somehow established.

Goren was chief Ashkenazic rabbi from 1972 to 1983. But his controversial period began after he left the Chief Rabbinate and founded the Idra Yeshiva near the Western Wall.

Politically, he became more outspoken in his criticism of the Labor-led government and to any talk of trading what he referred to as "God-given territory" in return for peace.

This past February, Goren expressed displeasure at the secular burial of an Israeli soldier, the country's first. Goren said IDF orders call for all military funerals to be performed by a chaplain. "Religious rites are an integral part of military funerals and cannot be separated by any desires of the bereaved family," he had insisted.

This past summer, as fear gripped Jewish communities worldwide following bombings of Jewish buildings in Buenos Aires and London and a plane in Panama carrying mostly Jews, Goren declared that Jewish law permits Diaspora Jews to move mezuzot from outer doorposts to inner doorposts to minimize danger.

Goren, whose family name was formerly Goronchik, was born in 1917 in Zambrov, Poland. He immigrated with his family to Kfar Hassidim, which his father helped found.

In 1928 he began his studies at the Hebron Yeshiva in Jerusalem and quickly distinguished himself as a prodigy, publishing the first of his many halachic works in 1935.

He also had a strong secular education. Between 1940 and 1944 he studied philosophy, mathematics and classics at Hebrew University.

Goren joined the Haganah in 1936, during the anti-Jewish riots. He fought in the Jerusalem area during the 1948 War of Independence, serving as a sniper and later as a member of a heavy machine-gun crew.

After serving as chief IDF chaplain for 24 years, he served as chief rabbi of Tel Aviv for two years. He was then elected Ashkenazic chief rabbi, a post he held for 10 years.

POLISH ANTI-SEMITIC SENTENCED FOR ANTI-JEWISH, NEO-NAZI ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- A leading anti-Semitic politician in Poland has been sentenced to a one-year suspended sentence for activities that included insulting Polish authorities, Jews and even Polish bishops.

Boleslaw Tejkoski, leader of the extreme right-wing Polish Nationalist Party, will not serve prison time for his acts, but any resumption of his activities within the next two years will result in his automatic imprisonment for one year, the World Jewish Congress reported.

But Tejkoski vowed to continue his activities despite the conditions of the sentence.

"I will neither change my views nor my operation," he reportedly said. "I will continue criticizing the authorities until they are overthrown."

The Polish National Party is described by the WJC as including 4,000 members and 67,000 sympathizers.

The Jewish group describes the party as "the most active of the extremist parties in the country."

The information was passed on from a spokesperson for the Polish Jewish community to the European Jewish Congress.