

**THE ISRAELI FLAG FLIES IN AMMAN  
AS PEACE WITH JORDAN BECOMES REAL**

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Israel and Jordan officially inaugurated their respective embassies in Amman and Tel Aviv this week.

At a ceremony Sunday in the Jordanian capital of Amman, officials raised the Israeli flag and installed a mezuzah at the entrance to their temporary embassy.

Israeli officials selected the Forte Grand Hotel in downtown Amman to serve as their embassy until a permanent site is chosen by the Israeli team currently examining locations.

A few hours after the ceremony in Amman, a parallel opening was held in Tel Aviv for the Jordanian Embassy, which will be located temporarily at the Dan Hotel there.

Israel and Jordan officially declared the establishment of diplomatic relations on Nov. 27. The two countries signed their historic peace accord on Oct. 26.

Yoav Biran, the Foreign Ministry's deputy director-general for Peace Matters, called the inauguration of the embassy another "bridge of peace, of friendship and of cooperation" between the two countries.

Israel has yet to name its ambassador to Jordan, but the appointment is expected by the end of the month. Until then, Ya'acov Rosen, head of the Jordanian desk at the Foreign Ministry, will oversee the embassy's operations.

On the Jordanian side, Omar Rifai, who took part in the Israeli-Jordanian peace talks and who is an adviser to Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan, will head the embassy until the already appointed ambassador, Marwan Muashar, arrives in Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile, officials for the two countries said that serious progress was being made in talks regarding joint economic projects.

Among the projects being discussed is a proposed "Peace Valley" resort area in the Dead Sea region.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:****DESPITE THE POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE,  
NOBEL LAUREATES HAVE LONG ROAD AHEAD**

By Gil Sedan

OSLO, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- For Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat, it was a vote of international confidence.

Yet while the three recipients of this year's Nobel Peace Prize were treated to a relaxing interlude in the face of a growing lack of confidence back home, the day's festivities provided yet another reminder that there is still much work to be done.

In the hours before and after the three leaders received their coveted awards Saturday night, the Israelis and Palestinians expressed deep divisions over how to proceed toward the next phase of their ongoing peace initiative.

The Israeli Cabinet last week agreed to adhere to the timetable of the Declaration of

Principles signed last year in Washington. But Israeli leaders remained cautious about the next step in the peace process -- the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank on the eve of Palestinian elections.

Their caution, sparked by fears for the security of Israeli settlers in the West Bank in the wake of an Israeli withdrawal, was highlighted by Rabin.

"The implementation of the Declaration of Principles must be based on mutuality," Rabin declared at a joint news conference with Norwegian Premier Gro Harlem Brundtland on Saturday.

As long as Islamic militants continue to launch terrorist attacks against Israelis, Rabin implied, no one can expect Israel to proceed with the implementation of the agreement.

An hour later, Arafat retorted furiously during a separate joint news conference with his Norwegian host.

"Does terrorism prevent elections in Israel? Does it prevent them in the United States?" he asked.

Arafat insisted that elections in the territories should take place as scheduled, "far away from the eyes and the intervention of Israelis."

Hours after the three received their Nobel prizes, they met for 90 minutes at Oslo's Grand Hotel to discuss the next phase of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

**Pace Of Negotiations To Increase**

Although some observers expected them to use the momentum of the prize ceremony to reach a major agreement, the three emerged from their session late Saturday night to announce only that they would increase the pace of their negotiations.

They also agreed that midlevel talks between the two sides, which resumed last week in Cairo, would continue later this week, and that Rabin and Arafat would meet again soon.

The late-night talks followed by hours what was perhaps the most controversial awards ceremony in the history of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Arafat's inclusion among the honorees sparked protests when the awards were first announced and demonstrations over the weekend in the streets of Oslo, Jerusalem and Gaza City.

At the awards ceremony, Rabin spoke of his past role as an army commander and of those who had died in Israel's wars with its Arab neighbors.

"Standing here today, I wish to salute our loved ones -- and past foes," he said. Referring to all the war dead and the families of the fallen, he added, "Tonight I wish to pay tribute to each and every one of them, for this important prize is theirs."

Peres spoke of the harsh lessons Israel learned from its past wars.

"The wars we fought were forced upon us," he said. "Thanks to the Israeli Defense Forces, we won them all, but we did not win the greatest victory that we aspired to: release from the need to win victories."

Countering the criticisms aimed at Arafat as

a Nobel honoree, Peres spoke out in favor of the PLO leader.

"I believe it is fitting that the prize has been awarded to Yasser Arafat," the foreign minister said. "His abandonment of the path of confrontation in favor of the path of dialogue has opened the way to peace."

In his acceptance speech, Arafat focused on the difficult negotiations that lie ahead.

The award was not granted "to crown an endeavor we have completed, but rather to encourage us to continue a road which we have started," he said.

Throughout the weekend, groups of demonstrators from Israel and the United States gathered on the streets of Oslo to protest Arafat's inclusion in the awards ceremony and the peace accord itself.

On Saturday, when the 1,000 people attending the ceremony at City Hall left the building, they were confronted by about 50 torch-carrying demonstrators who held up pictures of past victims of PLO terror operations. Placards charged Arafat with being a terrorist and Rabin a traitor.

A fight almost erupted between Jewish and Palestinian demonstrators, but mounted police separated the two groups and several demonstrators were detained briefly.

Last Friday, Rabbi Avi Weiss, the national president of the Coalition for Jewish Concerns-Amcha, and three other members of the organization spent more than seven hours in an Oslo jail after being charged with not obeying the orders of the Norwegian police.

The four were released after pleading not guilty to the charges. Each received a fine of \$400 or five days in jail.

Weiss later said the police were guilty of brutality against the Jewish demonstrators, and that he planned to press charges for false arrest.

Rabin later said he was unimpressed by the demonstrations. "Less than 10,000, 20,000 demonstrators don't count any more," he said.

#### Protests Held In Israel And Gaza

Protests against the prize ceremony also took place in various parts of Israel and the Gaza Strip on Saturday.

Several hundred settlers and supporters of Israeli opposition parties demonstrated in Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Ra'anana and at several road junctions in the north.

In Jerusalem, protesters carried torches to the Foreign Ministry and held pictures of 101 Israelis killed by Arab terrorists since the signing of the self-rule accord last year.

The Likud opposition said Rabin had accepted the prize only in the name of the Labor Party and the left.

"Rabin and Peres are humiliating the people and the country by accepting the prize together with a murderer of their people," the Likud said in a statement.

At the same time, some 5,000 anti-peace Palestinians demonstrated in Gaza City to protest the self-rule accord.

Sheik Abdullah Shami, a leader of the Islamic Jihad fundamentalist movement, said that Arafat's acceptance of the prize was akin to "spitting on the holy Koran."

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

#### **SYRIA AND ISRAEL AGREE TO RESUME LONG-STALLED DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS**

**By Naomi Segal**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- After a 10-month hiatus, Israel and Syria will resume direct negotiations in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher confirmed over the weekend.

The decision to renew the Washington talks, which were broken off by Syria in February following the Hebron massacre, came after Christopher returned from his sixth round of shuttle diplomacy to the Middle East this year.

Christopher gave no date for the resumption of negotiations, but he described the two sides as being "extremely serious" about returning to the bargaining table.

Israeli sources, meanwhile, said that Israel, Syria and the United States are in the process of finalizing details for expanding ongoing contacts between the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors in Washington to include senior military officers, according to the Hebrew daily Ha'aretz.

The sources said military officials from both countries would join the talks "very soon" to discuss security arrangements on the Golan Heights under an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement, Ha'aretz reported.

Israel and Syria reportedly reached agreement for military officers to secretly join the Washington talks earlier this year. But after details were leaked to the Israeli media, Syria backed out, saying it would not participate in any kind of secret contacts.

On Friday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa said Syria would not hold secret talks with Israel. He called the resumption of Washington discussions "not negotiations, but an exchange of ideas."

Over the weekend, Rabin cautiously welcomed Syria's agreement to resume negotiations in Washington.

Speaking to reporters in Oslo where he received the Nobel Peace Prize, Rabin said an exchange of views "is better than nothing."

Israeli-Syrian negotiations have been deadlocked for months over a Syrian demand that Israel commit to a full withdrawal from the Golan. Israel, in turn, has called on Syria to spell out the nature of the peace it is seeking before Israel makes any commitment regarding the Golan.

#### **IDF OFFICER KILLED IN LEBANON AMBUSH**

**By Naomi Segal**

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- An Israeli army officer was killed and seven soldiers were wounded in southern Lebanon on Sunday when fighters of the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah movement ambushed an Israeli patrol in the eastern sector of the security zone.

Four of the attackers were killed in the ensuing clash.

Two of the Israeli soldiers were moderately wounded, and the other five soldiers were lightly wounded in Sunday's fighting. The incident occurred when Hezbollah gunmen fired at close range on the soldiers, who were on a routine patrol.

Following the exchange, there was a heavy exchange of artillery fire in southern Lebanon.

**KUWAIT BROACHES TIES WITH ISRAEL  
ON EVE OF NEXT MULTILATERAL TALKS**  
By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The Persian Gulf state of Kuwait has expressed interest in establishing low-level ties with Israel.

According to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, Kuwaiti officials conveyed their desire to exchange interest sections in a message sent via Egypt.

The Foreign Ministry here said the message represented the first time Kuwait has indicated any interest in establishing ties with Israel.

No Israelis have officially visited the Gulf state, the newspaper said.

The subject of ties between Israel and Kuwait was expected to come up this week in Tunis during the next round of multilateral talks on arms control and regional security.

A member of the Israeli delegation to the talks, Eitan Ben Tsur, deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry, was scheduled to meet with Kuwaiti representatives to discuss the development.

**AS U.N. GEARS UP FOR 1995 JUBILEE,  
KURT WALDHEIM TRIES TO JOIN THE PARTY**  
By Larry Yudelson

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- As the United Nations gears up for its jubilee celebrations next year, Kurt Waldheim is desperately trying to join the party.

But Jewish groups see little chance that the former U.N. secretary-general, barred from the United States since 1987 for wartime Nazi activities, will be invited.

"I don't think anybody at the top leadership of the U.N. really needs or wants Kurt Waldheim," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

"But this guy has no shortage of chutzpah," Cooper said.

If Waldheim, a former president of Austria, does win an invitation, U.S. officials say they will work to bar his entrance.

"We'll fight his entry into the United States," said John Russell, a Justice Department spokesman.

Waldheim, who as secretary-general from 1972 to 1982 oversaw the world body's deepest hostility against Israel, has been lobbying Arab states in hopes of getting an invitation, according to the Reuters news agency.

The issue was reportedly raised at a recent meeting of Arab representatives at the United Nations.

The U.N. official overseeing the celebrations has suggested that Waldheim might be able to participate in the festivities at U.N. offices in his native Austria.

More likely, say observers, is that Waldheim's efforts will succeed in scuttling an invitation to the only other living former secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru.

Any participation by Waldheim, who served as a lieutenant in the German army, in celebrations of the world body founded in 1945 by the anti-Nazi Allies, would be fraught with ironies.

Not least among them is still unresolved charges, brought by the postwar Yugoslavian

government, that he assisted in the deportation of Jews and Serbs from German-occupied Bosnia during the war.

**SINGING HIS SAME ANTI-SEMITIC REFRAIN,  
ZHIRINOVSKY ACCUSES JEWS OF DOMINATION**  
By Lisa Glazer

MOSCOW, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Despite his long history of anti-Semitic statements, Russian ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky enjoys belligerently proclaiming his neutral position toward the Jewish people.

But any ambiguity in his position disappeared last week, when Zhirinovsky blamed Jews for pushing Russians out of former Soviet republics.

"The orchestras playing the same song, 'Russians get out!' are being directed by the same conductors, the same provocateurs," he said.

"The same provocateurs in Russia itself have persistently moved into the most prestigious and well-paid professions -- scholars with grants, writers, composers, film directors, journalists and so on -- the Jews," Zhirinovsky said.

He also said that Jews dominate Russia's "ministries, banks, companies and so on."

His statement received limited notice in the Russian media, but Zhirinovsky is starting to feel some heat for his outcries.

During parliament hearings last month, he called the head of Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service, Sergei Stepashin, an agent of the Mossad, Israel's secret service. He also accused the Russian intelligence service of being "a branch of the CIA and Mossad."

Now Stepashin is suing for libel. A spokesman for the Federal Counterintelligence Service, Vladimir Tomarovsky, told the Itar-Tass news agency that Zhirinovsky's charges were "an offensive and completely groundless attack."

Zhirinovsky's anti-Semitic utterances are now often accompanied in the Russian media -- as they are in the West -- by references to an investigation earlier this year that found that Zhirinovsky may well be part Jewish himself, the son of a man named Volf Eidelstein.

**EMIGRATION UP FROM FORMER REPUBLICS**  
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The emigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union was up last month over the preceding month, according to figures provided by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

According to the group's research bureau, 7,367 Jews from the former Soviet Union arrived in Israel in November, compared to 6,855 who went to Israel the month before.

An additional 2,494 Jews from the former Soviet Union arrived in the United States in November, compared to 2,214 who arrived here in October.

The figures bring the total number of immigrants from the former Soviet Union through November to 59,552 to Israel and some 30,000 to the United States, said Mark Levin, executive director of the National Conference.

A steady increase in monthly emigration since September reflects "a continuing trend from the Slavic republics, particularly Ukraine," driven by economic and political instability, said Levin.

**JEWISH FEMINISM IN THE '90s:  
WOMEN GAINING ACCESS TO VIRTUALLY  
EVERY SPHERE OF JEWISH RELIGIOUS LIFE**

[Part 2 Of A Series]

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

**NEW YORK (JTA) --** In the two decades since Jewish feminism first took shape, women -- especially in the liberal movements -- have gained access to virtually every sphere of religious life.

In the Conservative, Reconstructionist and Reform movements, they have become rabbis and cantors working in pulpits, hospitals and seminaries. In a more limited way, they have also had a hand in making policy as administrators and lay leaders of their movements.

Feminism's impact reaches far beyond issues of access.

It has led to explorations of the nature of spirituality, the nature of God, theology, prayer and ritual.

Even in the most stringent segments of the Orthodox community, women are devoting more of their energy to the serious study of Torah and becoming an increasingly learned constituency.

Liturgy in all the non-Orthodox movements has changed as a result of women's participation

The change has been dramatic in the Reconstructionist movement and slight in the Conservative movement. Ritual has been expanded and renewed.

The stories of pivotal women in Jewish history are being unearthed.

Female voices -- largely ignored in classical Jewish literature -- are now being woven into the cloth that makes up the whole of Jewish experience.

And the entire paradigm of rabbinic leadership is being reconsidered.

Young male rabbis are beginning to expect that they will no longer be "married" to their congregation.

Taking a page from their female colleagues' book, they are striving for a different balance between professional and family responsibilities.

The rabbinate in all these movements has been transformed by the women's more intimate and empowering form of spiritual leadership.

Jewish women now in their 20s were raised seeing women as rabbis and cantors and expect to participate fully in the life of their religious community.

**'Women Can Go Where They Want To'**

"With women so visible on the bimah, there is a real understanding that women can go where they want to go," said Francine Klagsbrun, an author who championed women's ordination in the Conservative movement.

Today's reality stands out in stark contrast to 1973, when organizers of the First National Feminist Conference included a session on women and Jewish law, and all of the rabbis who spoke were male. There was no one else who could.

Two decades later, most of the 221 female Reform rabbis and 55 female Reconstructionist rabbis say that they are accepted as rabbis, not "women" rabbis. Both these movements have been ordaining women since the early 1970s.

"For 10 years it was really oppressive to deal with the novelty. It's very nice to have it be normalized," said Susan Schnur, editor of Lilith

magazine and the founding rabbi of an independent congregation in Princeton, N.J.

Schnur was the fourth woman to be ordained by the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College.

Feminist Jews have achieved many changes in Jewish religious life, but many challenges remain, say observers.

Female clergy are often not considered for pulpits because they are women, and Jewish life has a long way to go before women's experiences are truly integrated into Jewish literature and liturgy. Reform rabbis, like all female rabbis, are still fighting for important benefits like maternity leave.

And in each of the movement's three branches -- congregational, rabbinic and seminary -- the upper echelon of leadership is exclusively male.

According to Rabbi Sue Ann Wasserman, coordinator of the Women's Rabbinic Network, a Reform group, "the movement as a whole has gone far, especially in the last five or 10 years, to incorporate more women into the ongoing work.

"Almost all new members of the board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (the movement's rabbinic arm) are women. There has been a very conscious and concerted effort to be more inclusive," she said.

Reflections of feminist influence are visible in the Reconstructionist movement more than any other.

The movement's new series of prayerbooks, titled "Kol HaNeshama," has integrated feminist approaches to addressing the divine.

Instead of using the traditional terms "Adonai" (Lord) or "Melech HaOlam" (King of the World) for the name of God in Hebrew, it uses the term "Yah."

**100 Different Terms For God**

In English, 100 different terms are used, the particular form of address selected to fit the context of each individual prayer.

According to feminist scholar Judith Plaskow, the term "Yah" in Hebrew, and the English-language range of terms, allow for "a much more immanent understanding of God and for the feminine form of blessings."

The Conservative movement, which approved the ordination of women in 1983, is having a difficult time negotiating the tensions inherent in being a pluralistic movement with both non-egalitarian and egalitarian congregations and leaders.

Many female Conservative rabbis voice deep frustration with the lack of progress their movement has made in addressing the tensions.

Even the leaders of the movement seem ambivalent about women's leadership, they say.

The result is a sometimes strange brew of practices.

At one New York-area Conservative day school, the director of Judaic studies, who is female, is prohibited from praying with tallit and tefillin at the school's services, although her female students are allowed to do so.

There has been discussion of establishing an office at the Jewish Theological Seminary or United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism that would be a central address for congregations and rabbis who are exploring the often-divisive issues of egalitarianism and women's ordination.