



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ **Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin expressed confidence that the Knesset would approve the Interim Agreement extending self-rule in the West Bank.** Both the Labor and Likud parties held caucuses to discuss strategies for the Knesset vote, which is scheduled for Thursday.

■ **Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal held an unprecedented meeting with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.** He pledged to normalize relations with Israel once there is peace in the region.

■ **President Clinton responded with silence to an appeal by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to pardon Jonathan Pollard.** Rabin said he asked the president during a meeting last week to consider the fact that Israel is releasing more than 2,000 Palestinian prisoners as part of its agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organization. (Page 2)

■ **The Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal by Leonard Jeffries, ending the quest of the City College of New York professor to regain the chairmanship of the school's black studies department.** Jeffries had appealed to the high court, saying that his rights to free speech were violated when he was demoted after giving a controversial anti-Semitic speech in 1991.

■ **Jewish settlers from the Jordan Valley crossed the Jordan River and entered Jordanian territory during their second day of protest against expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.** Israeli security forces reportedly failed in their efforts to thwart the settlers action.

■ **Eleven Jewish prisoners convicted of murdering Arabs petitioned Israel's High Court of Justice for their release.** The petitioners maintained that they, too, should be freed, given government plans to free Palestinian security prisoners as part of the Interim Agreement with the Palestinians.

## Rabin to American Jewry: Just stick to fund raising

By Lisa Hostein

NEW YORK (JTA) — At the same time that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is trying to convince American Jews that he is on the proper path toward peace, he is also asking them to mind their own business.

In a series of meetings with Jewish leaders and editors from the Jewish media, the prime minister's main target of wrath over American Jewish involvement in the peace process was the increasingly vocal segment of those opposed to his policies.

But he also sent a message to American Jews in general that their role in the Israeli-Diaspora partnership should center on philanthropy — and more of it.

"As far as the issues of war and peace, it is a matter to be decided by the Israelis alone in a free, democratic system," Rabin told a small group of Jewish editors here Saturday night.

Lashing out at opponents who have been lobbying Congress on peace-related policies that are at odds with the Israeli government, Rabin said: "To try to undermine the policy of a democratically elected government, to pressure members of Congress is unprecedented in the relationship between Israel and the great, generous, prosperous Jewish community in the United States."

He stopped short of repeating a position that he took in a meeting with Jewish organizational leaders last week that the continuation of such activity could threaten the Israeli-Diaspora relationship.

But he made clear that in his view, the partnership between Israeli and American Jews should be limited to two areas: promoting aliyah and the absorption of new immigrants and working for Jewish continuity.

The latest encounters with American Jews came in the wake of last week's signing ceremony in Washington of the Interim Agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

## Rabin believed out of touch with American Jewry

The agreement, which calls for the redeployment of Israeli forces outside Arab population centers and for Palestinian elections, will significantly extend Palestinian self-rule beyond the current autonomy in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

The meetings, especially with the Jewish media, were encouraged by Israeli diplomats in Washington and New York who are concerned that the Israeli government is out of touch with American Jewry.

Judging from the reaction of some to Rabin's remarks, these diplomats may be right.

His comments, which he repeated for Israeli journalists on his way home to Israel on Saturday night, made front-page news in Israel, with Yediot Achronot, the country's largest circulation newspaper, blasting the headline "Rabin Against the Jews" in its Sunday edition.

Although many in the organized American Jewish community applauded his strong stand against peace process opponents lobbying in Congress, many also took umbrage at the suggestion that when it comes to Israel, American Jewry should stick to philanthropy.

Seymour Reich, president of the American Zionist Movement, said he was troubled by what he termed Rabin's "disparaging remarks" about the American Jewish community.

A former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and a strong supporter of the peace process, Reich said Rabin "minimizes the advocacy role we have had over the years."

Echoing the views of other Jewish leaders who attended the meeting after the White House ceremony, Reich said Rabin is contradicting himself when he asks for American Jewish support for the peace process and also tells American Jews to stick to aliyah and absorption.

But Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents, said he does not think that Rabin actually meant that American Jews should limit their agenda to fund raising.

"I'm sure he doesn't mean that it's not our business to fight international terrorism or to promote foreign aid to Israel," Hoenlein said,

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citing some of the issues on his umbrella organization's agenda.

Rabin raised important issues about philanthropy and politics that "need to be wrestled with — and we're talking about them," Hoenlein said.

He said the way Rabin raised the issues and where he did it, when Jewish organizational leaders were expecting to hear about the Israeli-PLO agreement, "added to people's negative reactions."

In his meetings, Rabin went even further on the issue of fund raising, saying that American Jewry should assist Israel only "on one issue" — the absorption of new immigrants — and it should be giving more than it now does.

Funds for such projects as rural communities, a traditional recipient of American-raised and Jewish Agency-channeled monies, are "obsolete," the prime minister said.

Sounding a note critical of the level of funds raised, Rabin said Israel does not expect American and other Diaspora Jews to "do what the people of Israel have to do" in terms of financially absorbing the new immigrants.

But, he said, he wants American Jews to "show your partnership not only by words."

In Jerusalem, the chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Avraham Burg, criticized Rabin's remarks, calling his attack on U.S. Jews a "historic error" and said Israeli-Diaspora relations should not be based solely on economic assistance.

Charles Goodman, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization, said Jewish fund-raisers in America share Rabin's concern that "fund-raising activities are not delivering as much to Israel as it should or as it has in the past."

"We are determined to improve the situation," Goodman said in a telephone interview from Chicago.

### Overseas allocations decreasing

At a time of increasing local needs and shrinking dollars, many American Jewish communities have decreased their overseas allocations.

The overall percentage of all overseas allocations, including those to Israel, has declined from 50 percent to about 42 percent in recent years, according to the United Jewish Appeal.

Goodman, who met with Rabin on Saturday and discussed these issues, said aliyah and absorption, along with education, are — and will continue to be — the Jewish Agency's top priorities.

At the same time, however, he said the Jewish Agency has "some historic responsibilities" for other programs that "we must continue to honor."

Fund raising aside, Rabin took pains during his three days in the United States to detail what is driving his government.

In a 45-minute introduction to a Saturday night interview with a half dozen editors of Jewish publications, Rabin traced the 3-year-old history of his government's peace policies, starting with the collapse of communism and the end of the Persian Gulf War.

He reiterated his oft-stated position that extremist Islamic terrorist groups are the only alternative to Yasser Arafat and the PLO.

And he passionately offered his vision of Israel as a Jewish state, "not a binational state."

"I want a Jewish state not only by the name or by so-called borders, but by demography, by society, by values," he said.

Acknowledging that terrorism is the main obstacle

to a successful peace, the prime minister conceded that it is difficult to contain radical fundamentalists bent on suicide missions.

But he stressed that the PLO has "stopped terrorism" and that no Israeli was killed in a PLO terrorist act in the two years since Israel and the PLO signed its Declaration of Principles.

As for the West Bank settlements that, under the latest agreement, will remain as enclaves protected by Israeli forces, Rabin offered only limited guarantees.

"I'm committed that not one settlement will be uprooted during the interim settlement," he said.

But he emphasized his view that settlements are "not a security asset" and that his primary concern is with the economic and social well-being of the overwhelming majority — 97 percent — of Israelis who live in Israel proper, not the 3 percent of the population that lives in Gaza, the West Bank and on the Golan Heights.

Urging continued support for U.S. aid to the PLO, Rabin said there would not be peace with any Arab neighbor unless "that peace will be translated to the man on the street" in the form of economic advancement.

The prime minister said that if the United States, which has pledged \$500 million, withdraws its commitment, then other donor countries — whose pledges total \$1.7 billion — might follow suit.

Rabin himself lobbied members of Congress on the issue during his visit here.

Most American Jewish organizations back aid to the Palestinians, but a vocal minority has lobbied vociferously against continued support.

Aid to the Palestinians was one of the main issues Rabin was alluding to when he attacked American Jewish opponents of his peace policies.

Pointing to a recent American Jewish Committee survey showing that 63 percent of American Jews believe that Congress should demand PLO compliance with its accords before further aiding the Palestinians, Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, defended his right to lobby on this issue.

"This is U.S. taxpayer dollars; it is absolutely my business" to lobby Congress, Klein said, responding to Rabin's attacks.

"Jews have a history of expressing concerns when they disagree with [Israeli] policies," he said, adding, "I don't believe that as long as the PLO doesn't honor its commitments there will be a real chance for peace." □

(JTA correspondent Matthew Dorf in Washington contributed to this report.)

### Clinton responds with silence to Rabin's appeal for Pollard

By Lisa Hostein

NEW YORK (JTA) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was greeted with a moment of silence when he appealed to President Clinton to pardon Jonathan Pollard.

Pollard, a former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst who has been in prison for 10 years, is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel.

Rabin said he asked the president during a meeting last week to consider the fact that Israel is releasing more than 2,000 Palestinian prisoners as part of its agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"I didn't link" the two issues, Rabin told a group of editors of Jewish publications, saying that he merely asked the president "to bear it in mind."

But the president "didn't answer me," he said. "I don't know what will be his decision, but I felt that I had to do it." □

## Peres challenges Syria, Lebanon to join regional quest for peace

By Cynthia Mann

NEW YORK (JTA) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has called on Syria and Lebanon to “stop hesitating” and commit themselves to “work day and night” for a peace agreement with Israel.

Peres made his call before the new session of the U.N. General Assembly on Monday in a now-familiar address that touted the advances in the Middle East peace process, Israel’s unflagging determination to pursue it and its fruits for the entire region.

He chastised the Syrians for not sticking to the talks and for insisting that negotiations can be pursued only through military channels. He challenged them to work “on all levels, combining all issues” — “ceaselessly” and “without fatigue.”

Peres also went out of his way to single out for praise the leadership of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at a time when Israeli-Egyptian relations are strained by allegations that Israeli soldiers killed Egyptian POWs in 1956 and 1967.

And he pointed with pride to last week’s signing of the second phase of the self-rule agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

“We decided to make the moral choice not to dominate another people” in spite of terror, the continuing Arab boycott and internal political opposition, he said.

“Nobody forced us to do so,” he said. “We are not weak, we are not poor, we are not under pressure.”

Israel’s Labor Party “may lose politically, but winning peace is more important in our eyes than winning elections,” said Peres, alluding to elections scheduled for November of next year. “Why get elected if we don’t use the mandate to change the course of history?”

In his speech, Peres echoed remarks he made during a briefing a day earlier with members of the Jewish media. At the briefing, he defended the agreement and dismissed the significance of the political opposition to it in Israel.

### ‘What if Moses were subjected to poll?’

“People are outraged? What can I do?” Peres said. “I don’t know what would have happened if there had been a public opinion poll” when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. “Shall we go after the golden calf because there’s a majority” in favor of doing so, “or shall we go to the promised land because it’s the best thing?”

“Leadership has to lead, not only to represent,” he said. “It is not a beauty contest.”

Peres said his government has no plans to try to defuse the political tensions or win over the opposition.

“I am not a great believer in a campaign to explain our position — I think deeds are more popular than words,” he said. “I don’t think a government has to be popular at every moment.”

Peres also expressed concern about U.S. Jewish political lobbying in Congress against the Oslo accord, which drew the wrath of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during his recent U.S. visit. “To go in an organized manner to intervene in the diplomacy of Israel and try to defeat the policy of the elected government of a country” is “unheard of, unprecedented.”

Nevertheless, Peres was sanguine about U.S. Jewish solidarity with the Israeli government peace plan.

“Seventy percent of the American Jewish people support this policy,” he said. “We’re talking about a minority which is very vocal.”

At the United Nations, Peres highlighted the strength of Israel’s economy, which he called “an econ-

omy of brains, not of material resources.” At the same time, he offered Israel’s expertise to other nations and expressed its eagerness for joint ventures.

His language was cautious, however, in apparent deference to some sensitivity that Israel is poised to become the region’s economic superpower.

“We gave up the domination of a people surely not to dominate any markets,” he said.

“Together we shall invest and together we shall develop,” he said. “A better economy is the best guarantee for peace.” □

## Pact expanding Israeli-E.U. ties initialed, heads to parliaments

By Joseph Kopel

BRUSSELS (JTA) — Israel and the European Union have initialed a new association accord that will give the Jewish state enhanced trading and political status among E.U. member states.

The accord, which was initialed here Sept. 28 by Israeli Ambassador to the European Union Mordechai Drori and by Eberhard Rhein, head of the European Commission’s Mediterranean department, capped a long and difficult period of talks that began in January 1994.

The accord, aimed at strengthening the links between Israel and the European Union, was scheduled to be formally signed at an Oct. 30 meeting of E.U. foreign ministers in Luxembourg that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is expected to attend.

The new pact replaces a 1975 trade and cooperation accord between Israel and what was then known as the Common Market. The accord will provide for expanded free trade between Israel and the 15 nations comprising the European economic bloc. Israel hopes that the new accord will help lessen Israel’s growing trade imbalance with the European Union, which is Israel’s main trading partner.

The accord was reached in July after several E.U. states received assurances that Israeli imports would not adversely affect their domestic markets. The new agreement — which will need to be approved by the Knesset and the parliaments of the E.U. member states before it becomes effective — will allow 90 percent of Israeli agricultural products to be exempt from E.U. tariffs, compared with the current 70 percent.

The accord also will grant Israel special status to participate in the European Union’s scientific and technological research and development projects. According to diplomatic sources, this special status was granted to Israel because of its high levels of research and development.

Under the terms of the accord, Israel will contribute to the European Union’s research and development fund and will have seats on its various committees, but will not have voting rights.

When the accord is ratified, Israel will become the first non-E.U. member to get this special observer status within the research and development committees.

Negotiations on an updated accord between the two sides began in January 1994, after Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed the Declaration of Principles in Washington in September 1993.

Relations between Israel and the E.U. member states have improved since the Middle East peace process was first launched in Madrid in October 1991.

If approved, the Israel-E.U. accord would be the second association agreement between the European body and a Mediterranean country. The first was reached with Tunisia in July. These efforts came about because of the European Union’s Euro-Mediterranean partnership, which envisions the establishment of a large free-trade zone between E.U. and Mediterranean countries. □

## AMIA bombing investigation criticized at House hearings

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Major American Jewish organizations are hopeful that congressional hearings on the 1994 bombing of the Jewish community headquarters in Buenos Aires will lead the Argentine government to pursue its investigation more vigorously.

"With no clear path to a trial emerging after a year of intensive investigation, the Jewish community is understandably angry, frustrated and despondent," Tommy Baer, international president of B'nai B'rith, said in testimony before the House International Relations Committee, which opened hearings on the bombing Sept. 28.

"In addition, there is fear which grows out of the realization that Argentina remains a soft target," Baer also said.

The July 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, which claimed the lives of 86 and left more than 300 wounded, has been linked to Hezbollah, the Islamic fundamentalist terrorist organization based in Lebanon, which has close links to Iran. Several arrests have apparently led nowhere.

A 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires that killed 29 and injured 252 has also been linked to Hezbollah, though no charges have been brought in that case, either.

Argentina, home to some 250,000 Jews, is Latin America's largest Jewish community.

Members of Congress as well as a senior State Department official sharply criticized the Argentine government's investigation of the AMIA bombing.

"It is simply inexcusable that so little progress has been made by the authorities in Argentina," said Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.).

That view was supported by Philip Wilcox, the State Department's terrorism coordinator, who said, "The evidence points to Hezbollah as the bomber."

### 'Immense and attractive invitation'

Responding to the sharp criticism by U.S. officials of his government's investigation, Argentina's President Carlos Menem said he would instruct his Foreign Ministry to lodge a formal protest.

The World Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Committee, Coalition for Jewish Concerns and Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations joined with relatives of bombing victims in calling for more accountability from the Argentine government and a tightening of security to protect against terrorism.

"We firmly assert that the mistakes and omissions that followed the first attack — which was practically not investigated — acted as an immense and attractive invitation to persuade terrorists to repeat their action," said Luis Czychewski, whose daughter, Paolo, died in the attack against the AMIA headquarters.

Some of those who testified before the House committee raised the possibility of the United States placing sanctions on Argentina to keep the government from dodging its responsibility to investigate.

"I urge that the Congress of the United States use its prestige and economic power to assure meaningful investigations of the 1992 and 1994 terrorist attacks to keep the international community and the families of the victims informed," said Ralph Goldman, whose son died in the 1992 attack on the Israeli Embassy.

Goldman was world director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee from 1976 to 1988. He now is honorary executive vice president. His son,

David Ben Rafael, was a senior official at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.

Rabbi Avi Weiss, national president of the Coalition for Jewish Concerns, deplored the "abysmal" security in Argentina, saying that Buenos Aires is "ripe for another terrorist attack."

He took the call for sanctions a step further.

"To prevent further terrorist attacks in Argentina, it is critical that the U.S. government conduct a full on-site investigation into Argentine security," Weiss told the committee. "If Argentine airports are found to be unsafe, the U.S. government should prohibit American carriers from landing there. And if the Argentine borders are found to be porous, U.S. citizens should be warned not to travel to Argentina."

Weiss also charged that the government is engaged in a cover-up and "lacks the will" to bring its investigation to fruition.

The committee will reconvene in closed session to hear developments related to the investigation. A date for the hearing has not been set. □

## Monument unveiled in Warsaw to honor Poles who saved Jews

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — A monument has been unveiled in Warsaw to honor those Poles who risked their lives during World War II by forming a secret organization to save Jews from the Nazis.

The obelisk unveiled in late September honored Zegota, an organization sponsored by the London-based Polish government in exile during World War II to help Jews in Poland.

The monument stands near the larger Ghetto Heroes Monument, which pays homage to the hundreds of thousands of Warsaw Jews who died during the war and to those who died during the failed ghetto uprising in 1943.

Zegota, the Relief Council for Jews, was active from Sept. 27, 1942, in Warsaw, Krakow and other cities, and was the "only such government-funded institution in German-occupied Europe," said Stanislaw Krajewski, American Jewish Committee consultant in Warsaw.

"In Warsaw alone, 2,400 children were placed in families and Catholic or secular institutions," he said in a telephone interview.

During the ecumenical dedication ceremony, prayers were offered by Warsaw Chief Rabbi Menachem Joskowicz and by Bishop Stanislaw Gadecki, president of the Polish Episcopate's Commission for Dialogue with the Jews.

Speakers included Poland's Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski — one of the founders of Zegota — who stressed that the creation of the group had been a common activity of Christians and Jews helping the most vulnerable. Bartoszewski is one of the nearly 5,000 Poles honored as Righteous Gentiles by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem.

U.S. and Israeli ambassadors to Poland also spoke at the ceremonies, as did Arnold Mostowicz, head of the Jewish Veterans Organization, who said Jews are grateful to the Christians who helped them during the Holocaust.

Krajewski said it was significant that Bartoszewski had stressed that Zegota members were both Christian and Jewish.

"In Poland, few people realize that there existed Jewish members of Zegota," he said.

The monument, a black stone with inscriptions in Polish, Hebrew and English, was commissioned by a group of mostly Polish Americans, and was designed by Warsaw artists Hanna Szmalenberg and Marek Moderau. □