

**CHRISTOPHER WARNS MIDEAST PARTIES
TO ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH****By Deborah Kalb**
States News Service

WASHINGTON, May 18 (JTA) -- The Israeli and Arab negotiators in the Middle East peace talks must take a more flexible approach toward one another for the negotiations to move forward, Secretary of State Warren Christopher told a congressional panel this week.

In testimony Tuesday before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Christopher warned the parties they must do their part and that the United States "cannot travel this road" toward Middle East peace alone.

Christopher expressed satisfaction that all the parties -- Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians -- had returned to the ninth round of talks, which concluded last week.

He reported that serious discussions took place on all of the various tracks during the three-week round of talks and that, for the first time, "papers have now been tabled by all sides of a substantive character."

"Nevertheless," he warned, "this kind of engagement is not sufficient to produce progress, let alone agreements."

"The parties need to see negotiations more as a process of give and take, of engagements on terms that are designed to draw them closer together, rather than to keep them mired in their traditional positions," the secretary said.

'They Must Want Peace Themselves'

Responding to a question from Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.), Christopher said the United States is "quite willing to provide" help to the negotiating parties.

"But I would emphasize that we will do our part, but they will have to do their part," Christopher added. "We can't want peace more than they. They must want peace themselves."

The secretary said that the parties need to engage in more "public diplomacy," making their constituencies aware of the talks' importance. "They need to understand that negotiations here in Washington don't exist in a vacuum," he said.

"Reaching out to each other through public diplomacy, taking steps on the ground to reduce the possibilities of confrontation and sending signals to their constituencies about the importance of the negotiation -- all those things are necessary to create a climate where serious work can be done," the secretary said.

Christopher said a draft paper that the United States had hoped to get the Israelis and Palestinians to sign jointly was "designed not as a statement of U.S. policy, but as an effort to capture the substantive progress that the two sides had made in the last three weeks."

The Palestinians criticized the draft as reflecting a U.S.-Israeli point of view.

In response to a question from Rep. David Levy (R-N.Y.), Christopher reiterated that the United States is committed to maintaining Israel's aid level at \$3 billion for fiscal year 1994.

"And with respect to the future, our intention is to provide the best efforts in the same direction," the secretary said.

**ROUND OF ARMS CONTROL TALKS OPENS
WITH PALESTINIANS NOW TAKING PART****By Deborah Kalb**
States News Service

WASHINGTON, May 18 (JTA) -- A third round of multilateral talks on arms control in the Middle East opened here Tuesday, with Israel expressing hope for "real progress."

This week's session, which was to end Thursday, marks the first time Palestinian negotiators and representatives from the United Nations have taken part in the arms control talks.

But Syria and Lebanon stayed away, as they did during the last two rounds in Moscow and Washington. The two countries have also boycotted the other four sets of multilateral talks, which deal with such regional issues as economic development, refugee issues, water resources and environmental concerns.

The multilateral component of the peace process, often overshadowed by the higher-profile bilateral talks, involve most of the countries in the Middle East, including countries officially at war with Israel, such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Also taking part are major industrialized nations, such as Russia and Japan.

Twenty-five delegations are taking part in the arms control talks, which are considered among the most important of the various multilateral negotiations because of the enormous proliferation of weapons in the region.

The United States was serving as chair of this week's meetings, which were to focus on "strategic confidence-building measures."

Israeli negotiating head David Ivry told reporters Tuesday that Israel intended to "respond positively" to proposals for practical strategic confidence-building measures, and would present its own view of the long-term objectives of the arms control talks.

**ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED, 2 INJURED
DURING CLASH IN SOUTHERN LEBANON**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 18 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was killed and two others wounded, one of them seriously, in a clash Tuesday morning with a guerrilla group some miles north of the border security zone in southern Lebanon.

Several guerrilla gunmen were wounded in the clash, but managed to retreat after the engagement, which occurred while the Israeli soldiers were on an operational patrol.

The slain soldier was not immediately identified.

Heavy artillery, tank and mortar exchanges continued throughout the day in various sectors of the zone, and three Katyusha rockets were fired at a post manned by the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army in the zone's eastern sector.

Katyusha rockets also landed elsewhere within the zone, wounding three local residents, including a young child.

United Nations sources reported that Israeli air force assault helicopters hovered over south Lebanon during the day, flying to within some 18 miles of Beirut.

Military observers expected the Iranian-

backed Shi'ite Hezbollah organization to continue its attacks against Israel and its SLA allies at an accelerated rate, in an effort to derail the peace process.

ISRAEL SAYS TESTS DON'T PROVE BODIES HELD BY AMAL WERE MIAS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 18 (JTA) -- Initial results from an examination by the International Red Cross of two bodies held by the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal militia and said by Amal to be the remains of missing Israeli soldiers have been deemed by the Israeli army as inconclusive.

The results of the examination, which were forwarded to Israel by the Red Cross, cannot be accepted as proof, the army said.

The bodies, if positively identified as those of missing Israelis, would be returned in exchange for Israel's release of Shi'ite prisoners. A full pathological report is expected here next week.

Army sources noted that in the past, Arab countries or organizations had returned bodies to Israel as part of prisoner exchanges but that the bodies, upon examination in Israel, proved not to be the remains of Israelis.

Amal agreed to the Red Cross examinations last week after the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army released five Shi'ite women prisoners held in the El-Khiam prison in the southern Lebanon security zone.

Reto Meister, head of the Red Cross delegation to Israel and the territories, was quoted Tuesday by the Jerusalem Post as saying that the Red Cross pathologists were not in a position to say whether or not the remains were those of missing Israeli soldiers and that it was not their role.

GOLAN SETTLERS END HUNGER STRIKE AFTER PRESIDENT WEIZMAN INTERVENES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 18 (JTA) -- A group of settlers protesting any contemplated Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights ended a 20-day hunger strike this week following a meeting with President Ezer Weizman.

The protesters, who had sent up a tent in the Rose Garden opposite the Knesset, met with Weizman at the president's residence Tuesday for a half-hour and announced the end of the strike upon emerging from the building.

Weizman convinced the strikers that there was no point in continuing with the strike, since their message had already clearly been received.

The protesters are opposed to Israel's returning the Golan to Syria in exchange for peace as part of the ongoing Middle East peace process.

When one of the strikers announced that the campaign for the Golan would continue, Weizman interrupted him, saying: "We don't discuss campaigns.

"I merely want to say that I myself have taken the liberty, both as Ezer Weizman and as president, to propose that you terminate the strike," said the newly inaugurated president.

"Since I believe that your message has been passed and was accepted, I invited you to my home to have coffee and cake," Weizman said.

Yael Ariel, one of the strikers, said she came out of the presidential residence with a feeling of achievement, as their message had gained attention.

JEWISH LEADERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE GATHER TO CELEBRATE JERUSALEM'S UNITY

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM, May 18 (JTA) -- "Jerusalem will forever remain the united capital of Israel," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin declared as 1,200 Jewish leaders from around the world gathered here this week for festivities celebrating the city's reunification.

Rabin spoke Sunday night as Jewish leaders from 62 countries opened a three-day Conference on Jerusalem, the culmination of a yearlong series of events celebrating the 25th anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification.

Speaking before a standing-room-only crowd of delegates, diplomats and dignitaries at the Biyaneit Ha'uma Convention Center, the prime minister stated, "We came back to the Western Wall, the old synagogues, the empty old market, to the water holes. We came back, never to leave it again."

Looking up from his prepared text, Rabin took a more informal tone: "If there is any one message (I can impart) to you, the leaders of the world's Jewish communities who came to show solidarity, it is to share what you have seen here with your families and communities back home," he said.

The prime minister urged the leaders to describe how "Jerusalem and Israel have grown and prospered; how the city allows free access to members of all religions. We, the Jewish people who were oppressed, we have not forgotten it, and we will never bar others from practicing their religion here," he said.

Political analysts say Rabin's remarks may have been designed to reassure Diaspora Jewish leaders that Israel is not prepared to relinquish East Jerusalem in any future peace negotiations.

His comments come at a time when some Jews, both here and abroad, have expressed concern that the Labor government will make too many concessions in the Middle East peace talks.

Children Are The Big Hit

Sunday night's gala opening ceremony underscored the prime minister's message not only with words but with imagery.

Described by one American delegate as "an inspired mix of high-tech and schmaltz," the evening began with speeches by the prime minister, World Zionist Organization Chairman Simcha Dinizit and World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman. It then moved on to a heart-tugging look at the centrality of Jerusalem in the hearts and minds of Jews throughout the ages.

Rare black-and-white footage showed Jews fighting against the Arab Legion during the War of Independence, and the Israel Defense Force's dramatic liberation of the Old City in 1967.

Performances by a wide array of local choirs and dance groups, including those made up of Ethiopian and Russian immigrants, was proof positive of the city's diverse character.

But by nearly everyone's reckoning, the evening's true stars were the children, who sang and danced their hearts out. The audience was especially impressed with a choir of Ethiopian kids whose simple ode to Jerusalem was sung in Hebrew, but whose melody was inspired by the music of their native Ethiopia.

"The enthusiasm of those kids is infectious," Seymour Reich, president of the American Zionist Movement, remarked at the close of the ceremony.

AUSTRALIAN JURY ACQUITS ACCUSED NAZI, ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS OF THE JUDGE

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, May 18 (JTA) -- An Adelaide jury has acquitted Ivan Polyukhovich, the first accused Nazi war criminal to be tried under special Australian legislation passed to ensure such prosecutions.

The jury took one hour to reach a verdict following eight weeks of evidence.

The outcome was not unexpected, given Judge Brian Cox's instructions to the jury. Cox stressed that the lapse of 50 years since the time of the alleged crimes made it difficult for Polyukhovich to defend himself.

The judge told the jurors they were duty-bound to consider that the case would have been more strongly defended had the charges been brought against Polyukhovich nearer the time they were committed.

"Given that, it would be dangerous to convict on the evidence brought against him," the judge reportedly said.

Craig Caldicott, Polyukhovich's lawyer, said that his client had always proclaimed his innocence and was now "very relieved."

"Fifty years have elapsed since the events and there were many difficulties with witness evidence," he said.

The 77-year-old Polyukhovich was charged with involvement in the murder of up to 850 Jews, and the murder of a Jewish woman and two children in the Ukraine in 1942.

While Australian Jewish groups appeared to respect the decision of the court, the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center said it was concerned with the judge's comments.

The judge's remarks constituted an "ominous sign that casts doubt over the process of the prosecution of Nazi war criminals in Australia," said Efraim Zuroff, director of its Israel office.

"If Judge Cox's instructions represent judicial policy, then there is no point in continuing to prosecute Nazi war criminals in Australia, and the special law passed expressly for that purpose will ultimately be considered a dramatic but futile gesture, passed merely to placate public opinion but which achieved no practical results whatsoever," Zuroff said.

However, Isi Leibler, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, said, "The Australian Jewish community respected the decision of the Australian court."

Speaking from Jerusalem, Leibler said, "The Australian government had acted properly by allowing for the prosecution to take place and ensuring that Australian standards of evidence were upheld."

"The trial outcome does not weaken the argument that Australia has a responsibility to ensure that individuals alleged to have committed crimes against humanity could be tried in Australian courts," Leibler said.

DUTCH NEO-NAZI GETS 5 YEARS

AMSTERDAM, May 16 (JTA) -- A neo-Nazi man has been sentenced to five years in jail on charges he tried to kill a man who had beaten him because of his neo-Nazism and his distribution of neo-Nazi propaganda.

The district court in Leeuwarden, the capital of the province of Friesland, sentenced the 21-year-old man for the Jan. 23 attack.

UKRAINIANS STAGE PROTEST IN KIEV DEMANDING FREEDOM FOR DEMJANJUK

By Jed Sunden

KIEV, Ukraine, May 18 (JTA) -- A small group of Ukrainian nationalists picketed the Israeli Embassy in Kiev earlier this month, demanding the release of convicted Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk from his Israeli prison.

Demjanjuk has been sentenced to death in Israel for being "Ivan the Terrible," the notorious guard at the Treblinka death camp.

The group of approximately 30 to 40 demonstrators, the majority of them based in from western Ukraine, demonstrated in front of the embassy with posters and signs saying "Freedom for Demjanjuk" and "Shame on Israel."

The protesters attempted to present a petition to embassy employees, but it was refused.

The case of Demjanjuk began in 1977 when the United States, responding to a request by Israel, investigated allegations against the retired Ohio auto worker.

Demjanjuk's American citizenship was revoked after it was revealed that he lied about his wartime activities on his citizenship application after World War II.

Demjanjuk was then deported to Israel to stand trial for his role in the murder of 900,000 Jews at the Treblinka death camp. Throughout the trial, dozens of witnesses testified that Demjanjuk was the operator of the gas chambers, known as "Ivan the Terrible." He was later convicted and sentenced to death by the Israeli court.

His case is currently on appeal before Israel's Supreme Court, and a decision is expected to be handed down shortly.

An official statement by the Israeli Embassy in Ukraine, responding to the demonstration, stated only that no external influences or authorities can affect the decision of the court.

Relatively Minor Issue In Ukraine

Though the Demjanjuk case is a major rallying point for Ukrainian communities abroad, especially in the United States and Canada, it is a relatively minor issue in Ukraine itself.

The case is rarely brought up in a political context or discussed in the Ukrainian mass media.

Both the president's office and Rukh, the leading Ukrainian political party, distanced themselves from the demonstrators and their demands. The demonstration remained small and ended peacefully.

While the Demjanjuk case has sparked tension between the Ukrainian and Jewish communities in North America, the Ukrainian government has made serious attempts to build ties with the Jewish community here and abroad, distancing itself from the anti-Semitic policies of the former Soviet Communist government.

Last year, diplomatic ties were established between Israel and Ukraine, and the president of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, addressed the Knesset earlier this year during an official visit to Israel.

Some members of the local Jewish community have expressed apprehension about the possibility of an outbreak of anti-Semitism if Demjanjuk's death sentence is upheld.

None of the major leaders of the Jewish community were willing to comment on the case.

Though the massive emigration from the Ukraine to Israel that began in 1989 continues, there are still over a half million Jews living in the country.

CANADA PROMISES IT WILL WEED OUT WHITE SUPREMACISTS IN ARMED FORCES
By Bram D. Elsenthal

MONTREAL, May 18 (JTA) -- Reacting to news reports that neo-Nazis have infiltrated the Canadian army, the government has indicated it will act to weed racists out of the military.

The allegations against the army were made most recently on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. program "Prime Time News," which reported that a number of Canadian military personnel were affiliated with organized neo-Nazi groups.

Canadian Justice Minister Kim Campbell said she would undertake "a review of the policies of the Department of National Defense, particularly the policies of recruiting.

"I believe it is totally inconsistent for members of the Canadian armed forces to belong to groups which profess (racist) attitudes."

However, officials appeared unsure about exactly how to accomplish the goal of eliminating white supremacists and neo-Nazis from the army.

Initial signs of trouble in the military ranks came in March when a surgeon stationed in Somalia, Dr. Barry Armstrong, wrote a letter to his wife alleging that a Somali man was murdered by Canadian soldiers for racist reasons.

The Canadian Airborne Regiment has members there as part of a peacekeeping force sent in to stabilize the situation in the region.

One member of the contingent, Cpl. Matt McKay, was seen in a photograph published last year in a Winnipeg newspaper dressed in an Adolf Hitler T-shirt, standing underneath a swastika and giving a Nazi salute. The photo was shot three years ago at McKay's army barracks in Winnipeg.

Campbell, currently the front-runner in the race to succeed Prime Minister Brian Mulroney as leader of the Conservative Party, was accused of covering up the story of the slain Somali at the time.

Merely 'A Youthful Folly'?

In Winnipeg last week, Campbell created another stir when she said she was comfortable with McKay remaining in Somalia as part of the force, despite his past support for the Ku Klux Klan.

"He described his involvement in the KKK as a youthful folly," Campbell said. "And his commanding officers did inquire into it and were satisfied that this was not the sort of attitude that he was bringing into the service."

Opposition critics were outraged and demanded McKay's immediate recall. "There are millions of Canadians whose families, whose relatives and whose loved ones died under the banner of the swastika," said Liberal member of Parliament Brian Tobin.

"When a swastika is hung, I don't regard it as a childish or youthful prank. I regard it as a terribly upsetting incident," said Tobin.

The Canadian Jewish Congress was equally disturbed. Deeming the military's apparent consent of white supremacist activity among its members "frightening and unacceptable," CJC President Irving Abella demanded that Campbell "immediately remove and recall from active service any suspected white supremacists, pending the findings of the called-for government inquiry."

Hal Joffe, co-chairman of CJC's National Community Relations Committee, said from Calgary, "It is inconceivable that white supremacists could show the level of respect of the Somali

population that their mission demands and which the Canadian public expects."

He also noted that Jews, Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists and other members of certain religious groups have been exempted from "certain peace-keeping duties or aspects of these duties in the recent past."

During the Persian Gulf War, a Jewish serviceman was turned down for a position as an aide to the commander of Canada's contingent stationed in the Arab emirate of Qatar.

NEO-NAZIS, UNDETERRED BY SHUTDOWNS, ATTACK ROME LEFT-WING YOUTH CLUBS
By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, May 18 (JTA) -- Ten days after police shut down the headquarters of several of the country's best-known skinhead groups, neo-Nazis staged attacks on two left-wing youth clubs in outlying neighborhoods of Rome.

The authorities had acted to crack down on skinheads and disband the groups, but the neo-Nazis apparently carried out the attacks last weekend to demonstrate they were still active.

The first raid took place around midnight Saturday, when about 20 to 25 skinheads marched in goose step formation past the doorway of a youth club linked to the Democratic Party of the Left, the former Communist Party, where a rock concert and dance had just ended.

The skinheads shouted "Sieg Heil" and saluted in Nazi style.

A few minutes later, armed with crowbars, chains and other weapons, the skinheads returned and attacked. Two people were lightly injured in the brawl, including the father of one of the left-wing youths who initially tried to calm the situation.

"We resisted as well as we could, with brooms, with chairs, but they were too much. They were out of control," a youth identified only as Fabrizio told the newspaper *Il Messaggero*. "There was nothing human about them, they were like robots," he said.

"They were not people from around here," he said. "We have fascists in this neighborhood, and they are not capable of organizing themselves in such a way.

"These people came from outside to hit us. Thankfully, we were able to barricade ourselves inside. We shouted that we had called the police and, in the end, the Nazis went away," he said.

The same night, a half-hour later, a score of skinheads attacked another left-wing youth club. After the youths in the club barricaded themselves behind closed doors, the skinheads vandalized 10 or so cars parked nearby.

"The skinheads wanted to show that they were alive and well, and in position to strike anyone, despite the closure of their headquarters under the provisions of a government decree," wrote *Il Messaggero*.

Two weeks ago, police in various cities dismantled the major headquarters of known skinhead groups, including five in the Rome area.

In addition, some 75 youths in Rome, Milan, Florence and other cities were put under special restrictions, forbidden to leave the country and under orders to inform police of their movements within Italy.

At the end of April, a government decree aimed against skinheads went into effect stipulating heavy penalties for anyone fostering racial or religious hatred.