

# Upswing Seen In Israel-Austrian Relations

VIENNA (WNS) — Austria's relations with Israel have taken a turn for the better, both politically and with respect to trade, according to Gideon Patt, Israel's Minister of Commerce and Industry, who arrived here at the head of a trade delegation.

Patt, the first Israeli government official to visit Austria since the 1973 Yom Kippur War, said he left for Austria with misgivings because of the long strained relations between the two countries. "But now those feelings have been replaced with good ones," he told a press conference.

Since Chancellor Bruno Kreisky left office last year, to be succeeded by Chancellor Fred Sinowatz,

Austrian-Israeli relations have improved, at least in atmosphere and the tone of talks is much more friendly, Patt said.

He noted that Sinowatz has promised that he would stress the principle of Israel's right to exist at all his meetings with Arab diplomats, and in fact did so recently in Abu Dhabi during a visit to the United Arab Emirates. Kreisky, though Jewish, had been consistently critical of Israeli policies and maintained cordial relations with Arab countries and with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat.

For that reason, Austrian initiatives in the Middle East were often suspect in Israel. But Austria will soon

undertake new initiatives in the region. Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc told a press conference here that the government expects to increase its activities in the next few months to contribute toward an easing of tensions in the Middle East.

Lanc, reporting on Austrian foreign policy during 1983, would not specify what the new initiatives might be. But he made it clear that Austria views the Palestinian question as the basic problem to be

solved in the region and hinted that whatever new initiatives might be taken will be aimed in that direction. The war in Lebanon was a distraction, Lanc said. "Maybe now there will be a time of thinking instead of fighting."

# Alleged Killer Of 'Peace Now' Activist Goes On Trial

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Yona Avrushmi went on trial charged with throwing a hand grenade that killed Peace Now activist Emil Grunzweig during a demonstration outside the Prime Minister's Office in February, 1983.

The first witness for the State, Amos Schengaloff, a former police agent, testified that he had sold the grenade to Avrushmi shortly before the demonstration at which Grunzweig was killed. Schengaloff also admitted he had received 500,000

Shekels from the police for his part in exposing the suspect.

Avrushmi denies that he threw the grenade. An Israeli soldier, David Shem-Tov, who was arrested as an accomplice, testified that he had delivered a number of Israel army issue hand grenades to Schengaloff. Shem-Tov was not accused of taking part in the attack.



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