

### East Germany Agrees in Principle To Reparations For Victims Of Nazis

NEW YORK (JTA) — East Germany has agreed in principle to pay reparations to victims of the Nazis during World War II, Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, confirmed.

Steinberg said East German officials have told congress representatives that after nearly 40 years of refusal, "they no longer have any objection in principle to reparations to Nazi victims."

However, it was not clear whether only Jews or all victims would receive the payment, reportedly to be made in both currency and commodities.

Reparation talks are underway between East Germany and interested organizations in the United States, Frank Mader, press officer of East German embassy in Washington, was quoted as saying.

The reparations announcement, declared Steinberg, represents "a major policy shift after East Germany's long-standing refusal to make reparations."

Steinberg admitted that "We are not talking

about any specifics at the moment, but they've publicly acknowledged acceptance of the principle."

The executive director said that the stated reparations policy of both East and West Germany "stands in stark contrast to Austria, which has adamantly refused to make reparations payments."

Jewish sources say that congress president Edgar Bronfman may meet with East German chief Erich Honecker to discuss the whole range of concerns relating to Jews and Eastern Europe.

### B'nai B'rith Calls On U.S., Arab Countries To Join Israel In Mideast Peace Process

Seymour D. Reich, international president of B'nai B'rith, issued the following statement on the Middle East:

I think the time has come to change the focus of this discussion.

Until now, all the Monday morning quarterbacks have assigned Israel the responsibility for making things right in the Middle East. Israel must deal with the rioters in a humane way. Israel must solve the Palestinian problem. Israel must negotiate. Israel must make concessions. Israel. Israel. Israel.

Does no one else live in the Middle East? Does no other nation have either interest or responsibility in the area?

Perhaps this is the moment for the United States to become an active participant in the peace process. Surely it is time for the Jordanians, the Saudis, the Syrians, and the Egyptians to put an end to the empty rhetoric about support for their Palestinian brethren and show the world a sincere desire to bring stability and peace to the Middle East.

This drama is being enacted on a crowded stage. It's time we heard from some of the other players.

### Spiritual Thought For The Week

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