

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## WEST BANK, GAZA MAYORS THREATEN TO RESIGN UNLESS NABLUS MAYOR IS FREED

By David Landau and Gil Sadeh

JERUSALEM, Nov. 12 (JTA) — The mayors of 23 towns on the West Bank and Gaza Strip have threatened to resign collectively tomorrow unless Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus is released from jail and deportation proceedings are dropped. Shaka was detained in Ramle yesterday pending a Supreme Court ruling on an appeal against his expulsion from the occupied territories. But the high court has refused to order his release.

Mayor Rashad A. Shawa of Gaza was scheduled to meet today with Defense Minister Ezer Weizman in a last minute effort to prevent the deportation of his colleague. Weizman will also see Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem.

The entire Nablus city council has already resigned in protest against the treatment of Shaka. If the other mayors resign, all of the local town councils and employees are expected to walk out as well, paralyzing municipal services in most of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Defense Ministry said today that it was prepared for such a contingency and would see to it that essential services are maintained.

### Tension Mounts On West Bank

But tension and unrest mounted on the West Bank today. Businesses shut down in Nablus, Jenin and Ramallah. In the latter town, Israeli vehicles were stoned and students at nearby Bir Zeit College staged a sit-down strike. East Jerusalem remained calm however and shops were open.

Shaka was ordered expelled because of pro-terrorist remarks he allegedly made in the course of a private meeting six days ago with Gen. Danny Matt, coordinator of West Bank activities in the Defense Ministry. The Supreme Court issued a temporary injunction barring deportation while the matter was investigated. Today if turned down an appeal by Shaka's attorney, Felicia Langer, who argued that his arrest was in violation of the injunction.

Shaka, a leftist and supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organization, reportedly told Matt that the terrorist massacre on Israel's coastal highway in March, 1978, in which 34 people were killed, was justified and that such acts would be repeated until the Palestinian problem is resolved. Defense Ministry sources said Shaka's deportation was ordered because of his record of anti-Israel provocations over a period of years. They said his remarks to Matt were "the last straw that broke the camel's back."

Freij, who is regarded as a moderate, said today that he and the other mayors who announced their intention to resign would do so unless Shaka is freed by tomorrow. "All the employees of the Bethlehem municipality will likewise resign with me," he said. "Even the street cleaners in Bethlehem are going to resign so municipal services will virtually come to a standstill."

Freij told the Voice of Israel Radio that he was "strongly opposed to the action that has been taking place against Bassam Shaka. I don't think the statements attributed to him warrant his ex-

pulsion from the country or his removal from office," he said.

### Differences Among Mayors

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori said today that he hoped the mayors would change their minds. According to one Military Government source, the collective resignations of the mayors is not final and at least some of them would remain in office. According to another report there are differences among the mayors with regard to tactics. The PLO has reportedly urged them not to resign because to do so would play into Israeli hands. Most of the mayors are staunch PLO supporters. They were elected in 1976 in the first democratic elections allowed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On the other hand, they are being urged to quit by more extreme elements, notably the National Front which is associated with Israel's Communist Party. The mayors in the Gaza region held an emergency meeting last night where it was decided that Shawa would seek a meeting with Weizman. "We are asking the Israel government and particularly Defense Minister Weizman who is known as a reasonable man not to lend his hand to a general revolt in the entire occupied land," Shawa said. He postponed a visit to Jordan in order to meet with Weizman.

Israelis generally were infuriated by the remarks attributed to Shaka which were leaked to the press. But reactions to the deportation order were mixed. Although all coalition factions supported the decision, Weizman himself reportedly had second thoughts. He said he would set up a committee to investigate the matter.

### JDC AIDING CAMBODIAN PEOPLE

NEW YORK, Nov. 12 (JTA) — Expressing continued concern over starvation in Cambodia, Donald Robinson, president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, reported that the JDC, in addition to having made earlier contributions, has been accepting donations for Cambodian relief from the Jewish community together with its partners in the Interfaith Hunger Appeal, the Church World Services and the Catholic Relief Services. "The American Jewish communities have expressed great concern over the deteriorating situation in Cambodia and are anxious to help," Robinson said. "We have informed them that they may send contributions to the JDC and earmark them for Cambodia Relief." Contributions may be sent to the Joint Distribution Committee, 60 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10017, or to the Interfaith Hunger Appeal, Box 5055, FDR Station, New York, N.Y. 10022.

### ABORTION LAW AMENDMENT DEADLOCKED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 12 (JTA) — The amendment to the abortion law demanded by Agudath Israel failed to win a majority on its first reading in the Knesset today. The vote was deadlocked at 54-54 with two abstentions.

The failure of the government coalition to push through the amendment could endanger the government majority, since the four Aguda MKs have threatened to leave the coalition if the amendment

is not adopted. "We will do whatever our Sages instruct," Aguda MK Menachem Porush told reporters after the vote. Aguda's Council of Sages is expected to meet soon.

The amendment would have removed the "social clause" from the abortion law which allowed women to seek abortions for social or economic reasons. Orthodox rabbis view abortions for non-medical reasons as a grave sin. The Aguda MKs were told by the Aguda Council of Sages to press for the amendment even if it meant bringing down the government of Premier Menachem Begin.

Porush blamed Liberal Party defectors and Democratic Movement "subverters" for the coalition's failure to push through the amendment. He decried the Liberals who had "promised as part of the coalition agreement" to support the amendment.

Parliamentary observers pointed to Liberal MK Sara Doron and La'am MK Ehud Olmert, who both cast negative votes, as the surprise votes which were apparently not anticipated by government whips. Other Liberals — including Yehezkel Flomin and Yosef Tamir — absented themselves and all the Democrats denied their support for the amendment. Also voting "no" was former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

#### Seeking To Line Up Votes

Government whips worked feverishly in the dining room and lobbies right up to the moment of the vote, trying to persuade coalition waverers to vote for the amendment. To give them time to make an impact, Health Minister Eliezer Shostak took an inordinate length of time to make up his wind-up speech in the plenary — to the jeers of the opposition.

Shostak said that for Aguda and other Orthodox circles the amendment was a matter of a "hotness" while for the opposition it was a cynically-used opportunity to embarrass the government.

In order to embarrass coalition members still more — especially the secular- and liberal-minded among them — the opposition insisted on a roll-call vote, thereby forcing each member to vote individually by shouting out yes or no, "for or against" while the TV cameras played on each member.

Aguda's departure would put the government's Knesset majority in serious jeopardy — especially in view of the unreliable voting record of several of Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement. It was apparently for that reason that Begin himself took an active part, together with the coalition whips, in trying to drum up sufficient support to pass the abortion amendment.

Meanwhile, Porush said he would recommend to the "Sages" that they give the amendment another chance — in view of the sincere efforts made by Begin and the coalition leaders to have it adopted. According to Knesset regulations, the amendment can be introduced again in two months.

But observers recalled that Rabbi Simcha Bunen Alter, the Hasidic Rabbi of Gur, the Gerer Rebbe, has spoken out staunchly against "another chance." If the amendment was not passed, some observers believe the Rebbe, a powerful figure in the Council of Sages, wants Aguda to leave the government not only because of the abortion issue but because he does not identify with Begin's foreign policy which he feels is

too hardline.

During the summer the Rebbe held a long conversation at his Jerusalem home with Labor Party leader Shimon Peres. Neither side has revealed the contents of that conversation.

#### CABINET AGREES TO EXPAND SETTLEMENTS BUT ONLY ON STATE-OWNED LANDS

By David Landau and Gif Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 12 (JTA) — The Cabinet agreed yesterday to expand existing settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to establish new ones, but only on State-owned lands. It left the details to a special ministerial committee that is expected to be named within the next few days. It also accepted Defense Minister Ezer Weizman's proposal of a new site for Elon Moreh, the Gush Emunim settlement that the Supreme Court has ordered removed from seized Arab lands.

The Cabinet session was unusually calm and Premier Menachem Begin was credited with effectively defusing the bitter differences between Weizman and Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon over settlement policy, at least for the time being. Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor told reporters that the decisions were unanimous, indicating that Sharon, the most outspoken advocate of unrestricted Jewish settlements, concurred. According to Naor, the decisions were nothing more than an affirmation of policies adopted earlier by the government.

Sharon's plan for the establishment of a chain of 16 new settlements on the West Bank during the current Jewish calendar year was rejected. Also rejected was a proposal by Weizman to build six new towns around existing settlements. Sharon's plan would have required an investment of some IL 2.5 billion and Weizman's idea was also considered too costly at present.

But the Cabinet agreed to Weizman's proposal to shift Elon Moreh to a new site on Jabel el Kabir, a little further away from Nablus than the present site. "This is government land and more spacious than the present location," Naor said. Under the Supreme Court order, Elon Moreh must be removed by Nov. 21.

Weizman met with Gush Emunim leaders and Elon Moreh settlers in Tel Aviv yesterday afternoon. Their conversation reportedly dealt with the ideology of Jewish settlements. There were no indications that the Elon Moreh people would accept the new site or leave the present one without resistance.

#### Special Committee To Be Named Soon

Government circles sympathetic to the Gush Emunim said they expected the special ministerial committee to be named without delay so that it can start working on settlement plans well before the Nov. 21 deadline. They said this would demonstrate to the Elon Moreh settlers that the "government means business" in its expanded settlement program. But other government sources denied any linkage between the new committee and the Elon Moreh issue. They said that even if the committee is set up quickly and manages to hold one or two sessions before next week, it could hardly take substantive decisions involving large budgetary outlays in such a short time.

It is believed that the first order of business of the new committee will be to hear detailed reports from Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir on the legal status of the lands earmarked for the expansion of existing settlements and the creation of new ones. The government wants to make sure that these are

State-owned lands in order to avoid another Elon Moreh fiasco.

While the Cabinet was deliberating yesterday, a large group of Black Panthers forced their way into Elazar settlement in the Etzion bloc south of Jerusalem to protest the financial support given Gush Emunim settlements at the expense of urban slum-dwellers.

About 150 members of the group, which is associated with the Rakah (Communist) Party, arrived at Elazar in buses and managed to break through the strongly guarded perimeter fence. Verbal encounters with the armed settlers soon developed into fist fights. One settler who fired a shot into the air was pounced upon by the Panthers and badly beaten. He suffered head injuries. The Military Governor ordered the area closed.

#### NCC PLAN TO DEVELOP MIDEAST POLICY STATEMENT HAILED AS CONSTRUCTIVE STEP

NEW YORK, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- A plan to develop a comprehensive policy statement on the Middle East for the National Council of Churches, which includes sending a fact-finding group to the Middle East early in 1980, has been hailed by a Jewish spokesman as "a constructive, responsible and statesmanlike approach for dealing with the Middle East issues in all their complexity."

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, in praising the plan, also said it constituted a rejection by the National Council general board, which held its semi-annual meeting here last weekend, of a "one-sided, strident" resolution, "scapegoating Israel" as the so-called "unique" violator of human rights in the Middle East which was offered by the Antiochian Christian Archdiocese of New York and All North America.

Continuing, Tanenbaum said the resolution, which called for the suspension of all U.S. aid to Israel, "studiously avoided making a single reference to the flagrant denial of human rights of Christians, Jews, and Kurds in Iran; of Copts in Egypt and Ethiopians; of Christians and Jews in Libya, South Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon, in which the PLO has played its consistently destructive and violent role."

Meanwhile, the Antiochian church abandoned a plan to seek to add Zehdi Labib Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer at the United Nations, to its list of proxies on the governing board. Tanenbaum said he attended the sessions of the general board with Rabbi James Rudin, the associate interreligious affairs director, as "official fraternal delegates."

#### Series Of Tasks Assigned To The Panel

Tanenbaum said that two weeks ago, a special Middle East panel of 16 influential leaders of the main Protestant and Orthodox denominations in the National Council was set up. The Antiochian resolution was turned over to the special panel earlier last week. Its extremist position was found unacceptable by many National Council members.

Tanenbaum said the special panel was assigned a series of tasks, one of them involving the projected fact-finding trip to the Middle East late February and early March. Basically, the panel will seek to organize a series of discussions and meetings with Christian and Jewish leaders, both in the United States and in the Middle East, to develop approaches for the projected comprehensive Middle East policy.

Preparation of a detailed outline of issues, development of issue papers, a series of forums to discuss the issue papers both ins

Preparation of a detailed outline of issues, development of issue papers, a series of forums to discuss the issue papers both inside and outside of the National Council, and review and drafting of a new policy statement are among the basic tasks assigned to the special panel.

In January and early February, the panel will hold open hearings on the proposed policy statement at which representatives of concerned organizations may request time to speak. Tanenbaum said the AJC Committee had been offered and had accepted an invitation to appear at one of the open hearings.

Also scheduled are informal discussions by the panel with selected groups concerned with the Middle East, such as Jewish, Arab Christian or Palestinian representatives.

During the Middle East visit, the panel will seek to meet with Arab Christians and Moslem religious, cultural and political leaders. The visit will focus on human rights, the PLO, the security needs of the peoples in the region, policy related to the holy places, and the extent of the exodus in the region due to "religious, cultural and economic oppression" in the countries of the region.

Tanenbaum said that it would include examination not only of charges of Christian Arabs being driven from Jerusalem, but also Jews being forced out of Arab countries. He said "we are insisting" that in the panel's examination of such displacements, "the situation of Jews driven out of Arab countries be given appropriate consideration."

The panel also will seek opportunities to discuss its concerns with government leaders in the Middle East and will develop recommendations for consideration by the governing board on such issues as National Council recognition of the PLO, human rights violations "or other issues assigned to it or deemed essential."

The panel is under instructions to assimilate all of its findings before April 1 and to advise the National Council policy development work group as it writes its final draft for a first reading in May at the next general board meeting. (By Ben Gallob)

#### CARTER HAILED FOR STEP ON IRANIAN OIL

NEW YORK, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee commended President Carter today for his announcement that the United States will immediately end all oil imports from Iran and pledged its "full cooperation in the President's call for nationwide energy conservation." The President made the announcement to the nation in a brief television address this afternoon. His action was in response to the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Teheran a week ago and the holding of more than 60 Americans hostage there.

The President said he was ordering the discontinuance of oil purchases from Iran to stress America's resolve not to bow to economic pressure anywhere. He said this would mean sacrifices for Americans and urged everyone to reduce their use of energy.

In a statement released shortly afterwards, Bertram H. Gold, executive vice president of the AJC Committee said: "We strongly commend President Carter for his courageous decision to end oil imports from Iran. At a time when the U.S. is being politically and economically blackmailed, the President's action demonstrates that our nation will not be manipulated by those who would irresponsibly use their oil weapon as a lever of intimidation in international diplomacy." Carter, in making his announcement, said the United States must resist terrorism and acts such as taking hostages.

## ADL STUDY SHOWS KKK IS AT ITS GREATEST STRENGTH IN MORE THAN A DECADE AND HAS BECOME MORE VIOLENT

NEW YORK, Nov. 12 (JTA) -- The Ku Klux Klan has become more violent and confrontational, is back in its native habitat, and is at its greatest strength in more than a decade, according to a comprehensive study made public today by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The study, which updates the last ADL report on the Klan in March, 1978, points out that with a total membership of some 10,000, the KKK still speaks for only a small segment of the American population but "that segment is growing proportionately larger and more vocal."

"Even more significant and disturbing than its numbers," said Justin Finger, director of ADL's civil rights division, "is the Klan's change in stance and tactics — from KKK leader David Duke's 1977-78 public relations attempts to project an image of respectability, to its current blatantly overt lawlessness." He cited the Klan-Communist Workers Party confrontation in Greensboro, North Carolina, as the latest incident of such lawlessness.

Finger said that "in addition to the Klan's new aggressive stance, its exploitation of such controversial issues as busing and affirmative action has evoked a responsive chord among some blue collar and lower-middle class sectors of the public." He went on to say that "anxieties over such things as crime, inflation, the energy crisis, and a seemingly permissive society have also contributed to a climate which enables the Klan to grow."

### Elements In The Study

The ADL study disclosed:

- \* An increase in Klan membership from some 8,000 in March, 1978, to approximately 10,000 today, a gain of roughly 25 percent.

- \* An increase in the number of Klan sympathizers, reflecting the KKK's shift back to the South, "a friendlier environment."

- \* The rise to prominence of the most violent of all the Klan groups, Bill Wilkinson's Invisible Empire, Knights of the KKK, headquartered in Louisiana.

- \* Special Klan recruiting campaigns aimed at school-age children.

- \* Continuing attempts to infiltrate the Armed Forces.

- \* "Mimicry of the KKK 'in the form of do-it-yourself cross-burnings around the country by assorted troublemakers harboring racist grievances."

The report points out that the growth of the KKK in the North noted in ADL's 1978 report has been reversed. The Klan's major gains over the past year have been in the old Confederate states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas where, the ADL says, "the KKK has historically been an indigenous spearhead of racial bigotry." Membership gains have also been recorded in Colorado, North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia; losses were registered in Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. In addition, there are Klan units and activity in California, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri and South Carolina.

### The KKK Score Card

The current "overall Klan score card," ac-

cording to the ADL, is as follows:

- \* Robert Shelton's United Klans of America, 3,500 to 4,000 members.

- \* Bill Wilkinson's Invisible Empire, Knights of the KKK, 2,000 to 2,500.

- \* David Duke's Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, 1,500 to 2,000.

- \* William Chaney's Confederation of Independent Orders of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the KKK, 1,500.

- \* Miscellaneous independent Klans, 500.

A "profile" of the various Klans places them almost entirely in rural and small-to-medium towns — with the exception of Denver, New Orleans and Birmingham. A typical crowd at rallies of the Duke and Wilkinson organizations is described as being 15 percent teenagers, 60 percent to 80 percent early twenties to mid-thirties, and 15 percent to 25 percent in the late thirties or older — with many male activists wearing their hair long and sporting beards and drooping mustaches. The sex breakdown is approximately 1/4 to 1/3 female — mostly wives and girlfriends of the male members.

Educationally, the average "Kluxer" has had three years of high school. Some 20 percent were active in the 1960s. Although Roman Catholics are now accepted in the new Klans, the overwhelming majority of members are Protestant.

While the Klan is correctly perceived as being anti-Black, the report goes on to say, "its litany of hates" includes Hispanics, Asians and American Indians and reserves "a special place for Jews." Duke's Knights of the KKK is cited as the most extreme in its anti-Semitic bigotry, "not surprising since Duke is a former American Nazi activist."

The ADL study found little likelihood of the Klan regaining the power it once had, but warned that "complacency would be as wrong a posture to adopt as alarmism." In its report, the ADL calls for firm political leadership, strict law enforcement to prevent violence and disorder, informed reporting by the mass media, and the "basic need to press ahead in the quest for racial justice and equal opportunity for every citizen." It further calls for "a concerned citizenry prepared to give full backing to political officials who are ready to stand up courageously to the hooded legions."

The ADL study was prepared by Irwin Sull, director of the fact-finding department of the agency's civil rights division.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Placards attacking "Zionism" were among those carried by Iranian students who paraded in front of the State Department Friday demanding that the United States return the Shah of Iran. In large green and red letters the signs read "Zionism=Racism, Hypocrisy, Expansionism," and "Jews Our Brothers, Down With Zionism." At different times during the course of their demonstration, the close to 1000 demonstrators also shouted "Down with Zionism." They also shouted "Long live the Soviet revolution."

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) -- The Auschwitz concentration camp, an infamous symbol of the Nazi atrocities in World War II, has been placed on the World Heritage List as a site to be preserved for all mankind, it was disclosed by UNESCO officials here. The camp site was one of more than 40 chosen by the UN agency.