

JTA daily news bulletin

Continued coverage, Republication only by previous arrangement

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLVII - 62nd Year

Wednesday, November 28, 1979

No. 225

MILITARY TRIBUNAL POSTPONES HEARING ON SHAKA'S APPEAL

By Gil Sedar

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Efforts to avert the deportation of Nablus Mayor Bassam Shaka continued today but a hearing on his appeal against expulsion was delayed. The military appeals board that was scheduled to meet today at Ramle jail where Shaka is confined, postponed its session until tomorrow. Defense Ministry sources were quoted as saying that Shaka will be deported unless the outcome of the legal process is in his favor.

So far, Shaka has had little success. The Supreme Court refused to order his release from jail and declined to hear his appeal until all other legal procedures are exhausted. If the military appeals board rejects his arguments against expulsion, he will have three days to renew his appeal to the high court.

Although the prospects seem bleak, West Bank leaders, notably Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, are continuing to seek a compromise formula that would allow Shaka to remain in Nablus. But Shaka, who is in the second week of a hunger strike, reportedly rejected any compromise that would require him to resign from office.

He reportedly expressed willingness to talk to the media and "clarify his views concerning terrorist actions." Shaka's deportation was ordered originally on the basis of alleged statements he made to a Defense Ministry official justifying terrorist acts that took civilian lives.

The Shaka case was the subject of a telephone conversation over the weekend between Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali. Senior sources at the Defense Ministry denied yesterday that the Egyptians have warned Israel of possible repercussions if Shaka is deported. Israel has told Egyptian officials in the past that the Shaka case involves internal security and that it would not tolerate foreign interference in the matter.

5000 PEOPLE RALLY TO PROTEST PLANS TO INVITE ARAFAT TO PARIS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Some 5000 people attended a meeting last night held to protest against reported French government plans to invite Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat to Paris. The participants adopted a resolution calling on the French government to adopt a "more balanced policy" in the Middle East and warning that an invitation to Arafat to visit Paris would be considered "an insult and a provocation" by all freedom-loving people in France.

The speakers, including several non-Jews such as Gen. Pierre Lecomte, president of the France-Israel Alliance, and Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, president of the Resistance Action Committee, stressed that the PLO Charter provides for Israel's destruction.

French authorities say there are no immediate plans for an Arafat visit to France but that "no basic difficulties" exist. It is believed that the visit is being held up by French demands of Palestinian concessions in south Lebanon, such as

an evacuation of the territory close to the Israeli border to enable the central government in Beirut to assume control of the area.

BLUM: PALESTINIAN ARABS ACHIEVED STATEHOOD IN KINGDOM OF TRANSJORDAN

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, claimed today that the Arabs of Palestine "achieved their statehood as early as 1946, on 80 percent of mandated Palestine," with the establishment of the kingdom of Transjordan. In this way, they preceded by two years the establishment of an independent Jewish State in Palestine, "the Israeli envoy declared.

Addressing the General Assembly debate on the Question of Palestine which opened here yesterday, Blum asserted that while the state of the Palestinians was established on 80 percent of the territory of Palestine "the Palestinian Jews founded their State (Israel) on less than 20 percent of the area of the former (British) Mandate."

Furthermore, Blum declared, "This development was also accompanied by a de facto exchange of populations. A large number of Arabs, who had been resident in the part of Palestine that became Israel, left their homes and settled in the neighboring Arab states (predominantly in the Palestinian Arab state of Jordan). An even greater number of Jews, who had been resident in the Arab states, left their countries of origin and made their way almost without exception to Israel -- the Palestinian Jewish State."

Noting that the "core" of the Mideast conflict is the refusal of the Arabs to accept the State of Israel and not the Palestinian question, Blum said, however, that the only solution to the question of the Palestinian Arabs is in the autonomy plan of the Camp David framework.

Autonomy Plan Offers Opportunities

"This framework invites the Palestinian Arab residents of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district to play an active role in shaping their future by calling on them to participate in all aspects of the negotiations," Blum said, adding that never in their history had the Palestinian Arabs been offered better opportunities to govern themselves than those offered by the autonomy plan.

Blum said that despite the efforts of the Arab "rejectionist front," led by the Palestine Liberation Organization, "the current negotiations (on autonomy) will continue and we are confident that they will reach a successful conclusion, thus carrying us another step further towards the achievement of an overall peace in the entire region."

The Palestine debate continued to be obscured today by the ongoing crisis in Iran and the United Nations efforts to convene a Security Council meeting to deal with the tense situation as a result of the 49 hostages being held in the American Embassy in Teheran. Attention of the press and diplomats here was completely focussed on the Iranian crisis and observers here noted that the PLO and its supporters, which in previous years used the debate to make inroads in American and international public opinion, cannot expect the same results this time.

Meanwhile, in a report to the Security Council, Secretary General Kurt Waldheim today recommended a further six-month extension of the mandate.

of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights. The current mandate expires at the end of this month. He said he considered the continued presence of UNDOF to be essential.

DULZIN URGES GOVERNMENT NOT TO HURT PROJECT RENEWAL By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 (JTA) — Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World-Zionist Organization Executives, urged the government today not to hurt Project Renewal during the projected cuts envisioned under the austerity program announced last week by Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz.

Addressing the Jewish Agency Executive meeting here, Dulzin warned that if the project were frozen, it would actually be abolished. This, he said, would cause further difficulties in Israel's poverty neighborhoods and constitute an insult to contributors overseas. Dulzin said he would ask Premier Menachem Begin to exert his influence for the continued work on the project.

One indication for a possible conflict on this issue was when Hurwitz yesterday postponed a discussion on a proposal by Labor Minister Yisrael Katz to allocate IL 8.9 million and temporary posts for 35 community workers to Project Renewal. Hurwitz argued that the whole plan was too grandiose. He insisted that no part of the plan should be approved before a further discussion.

Neither Dulzin nor Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, who are jointly in charge of the project, have been told anything definite yet and do not know whether Hurwitz really intends to freeze the government's 50 percent contribution to Project Renewal. Yadin has warned he would resign if the project was dropped.

Consequences Of Freezing Project

Dulzin told the Jewish Agency Executive that since the decision to launch the project was taken jointly by the government and the Agency, it could not be reversed unilaterally by the government. He explained that the millions of dollars contributed for the project by world Jewry could not be used for any other purpose.

If the government froze its part of the project, Dulzin said, housing, construction and renovation of the slum neighborhoods would be affected. The Jewish Agency part of the deal consists mainly of welfare. Without the housing element, the entire balance of a "carefully planned and integrated program" would be upset, he warned.

Dulzin said Project Renewal would have no significant effect on inflation. "If I had the choice of two or three percent inflation and continue with Project Renewal, I would prefer Project Renewal."

KNESSET UNIT LOOKING INTO TWO FIRMS THAT WILL DELIVER SINAI OIL TO ISRAEL By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 (JTA) — The Knesset's Economic Committee summoned Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai today to explain why two companies owned by close personal friends of Premier Menachem Begin were selected to serve as middlemen in the delivery of Sinai oil to Israel until the normalization of relations between Israel and Egypt allows the two countries to deal

directly. Eyebrows were raised when it was reported that the companies would receive fees and commissions amounting to about \$1 million for services they will perform only during the months of January and February 1980.

Modai flatly denied this at a press conference he called here today. He said the two contractors would receive only \$20,000 and that the rest of the amount represented expenses that Israel would have had to assume anyway if it transported the oil itself. He insisted that there was no preferential treatment and that the two firms were, in fact, doing Israel a favor that other companies approached by the government had refused to do.

One of the companies is owned by the Israeli millionaire Shaul Eisenberg, 58, who runs a worldwide commercial empire from Israel and has been associated with successive governments since the late Pinhas Sapir was Finance Minister. The other company belongs to Nissim Gaon, a well-known philanthropist and president of the World Sephardi Federation. Both are long-time associates of Begin. A third firm involved in the deal is British-owned and has been operating in the Sinai area for some time.

Gad Yaacobi, a Labor MK who is chairman of the Economic Committee, said he wanted to know how the companies were selected and who made the decision. Modai said it was the Egyptians who determined which companies would be chosen. He said that at the outset of negotiations over Sinai oil, the Egyptians submitted a list of five corporations out of which Israel was to choose four. The Eisenberg and Gaon companies were among the four chosen. Subsequently, the number was reduced to three companies at Egypt's request.

Modai explained that under the agreement with Egypt, the movement of Sinai oil to Israel would be handled in three stages. During the first stage, until the end of this year, the British firm would act as middleman. In the second stage, beginning in January, the Eisenberg and Gaon companies would join. At the end of February when the normalization of relations takes effect under the terms of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, Israel's three national oil companies will take over and the oil will be transported in tankers flying the Israeli flag.

Israel will buy about 150,000 tons of crude oil a month from Egypt. It will be transported to Eilat and from there by pipeline to the refineries in the north.

MEXICO CITY (JTA) — Mrs. Ophira Navon, wife of President Yitzhak Navon of Israel, is attending a special conference in Acapulco in connection with the International Year of the Child, also attended by the wives of presidents of many Asian, African and Latin American countries. She was warmly received by Mrs. Carmen Romano de Lopez Portillo, wife of the President of Mexico. Mrs. Navon proposed the creation in Mexico City of an asylum for children of war victims. Her suggestion was well received by the other delegates, many of them from countries that have no diplomatic relations with Israel, and by the Mexican press.

AMSTERDAM (JTA) — Jan de Koning, Netherlands Minister for Development Aid, has again rejected a request of The Netherlands Palestine Committee for an annual subsidy of 35,000 Guilders (\$17,500). The committee had wanted this subsidy to enable it to engage in full-time organizing. De Koning rejected the request despite positive recommendation by the National Advisory Commission for Development Aid. He said the committee seeks the destruction of Israel.

CONGRESSMAN SPONSORS BILL TO COMBAT CHURCH, SYNAGOGUE VANDALISM

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. NY) said yesterday that he has introduced legislation which would make the destruction of a house of worship, or the religious articles contained therein, a federal crime punishable by a \$10,000 fine, five years in jail, or both.

The bill would amend federal civil rights statutes which already protect private homes and multiple dwellings from cross-burnings but which leave prosecution for church and synagogue burnings to local law enforcement authorities. The proposed federal penalties would be in addition to any imposed by local courts for violations of state arson or vandalism laws.

Solarz's action followed a rash of "suspicious" church and synagogue fires in his Brooklyn district and an apparent increase in such incidents across the nation. In one recent incident, a Brooklyn synagogue was gutted, and nine sacred Torah scrolls destroyed, by a fire set by vandals in the course of a burglary. The scrolls, some more than 200 years old and valued at several thousand dollars each, were buried following an elaborate funeral at which local religious and civic leaders demanded additional police protection and stiffer penalties for those convicted.

"If it's a federal crime to burn a cross on someone's lawn, then it should be a federal crime to burn a Torah scroll in someone's synagogue," Solarz told the congregation of more than 500 persons. "The spirit of freedom of worship is violated unless there are substantial penalties for interfering with a congregation's right to worship without fear," he had told the congregation.

Although several Supreme Court decisions have ruled against persons accused of disrupting religious services, these were made with regard to civil statutes and have never been applied in federal criminal prosecutions, he said. Believing, therefore, that they have no legal jurisdiction, U.S. Justice Department officials have sidestepped church and synagogue burnings unless they believed other statutes, such as those regarding explosives, to have been violated, Solarz said.

He stated that he will be seeking support for his bill from the nation's religious community and especially from those denominations with a history of persecution. "We are speaking here of crimes against people, not merely crimes against property," Solarz said. "A house of worship can be rebuilt, but the trauma of watching one burn is not easily forgotten."

LOKMAN, FORMER PRISONER IN ARGENTINA, IS SAFE IN ISRAEL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- Jaime Lokman, an Argentine businessman who was imprisoned for more than 3 1/2 years for allegedly aiding anti-government subversives -- although no formal charges were ever brought against him -- is safe in Israel after receiving authority to leave Argentina.

Lokman, with his wife and daughter, reached Israel Saturday. In a telephone call yesterday to New York, he informed Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of the Latin American Department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, of his arrival. The ADL had been actively seeking his release for years.

The Argentine Ambassador to the U.S., Jorge A. Aja Espil, stated in letters to Rosenthal and to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Washington, that he is "aware of your interest in Mr. Jaime Lokman's case" and "I want to inform you" that the Argentine government, in a decree of November 9 "has granted Mr. Lokman the right of option to leave the country, allowing him to travel to Israel."

Lokman was imprisoned on March 24, 1976, the day of the coup by the military junta. According to Rosenthal, he was first detained in prison in Cordoba, later incarcerated in the Sierra Chica Prison in Buenos Aires Province and more recently in Rawson's U-6 Penitentiary where political prisoners are confined. Rosenthal said that Lokman, 56, was in failing health while he was in prison.

ADL Protested His Prolonged Detention

The ADL repeatedly protested his prolonged detention without charges and the government's refusal to permit him his right under the Argentine Constitution to leave the country. Rosenthal observed that Argentine law permits persons detained without charges to request the option to emigrate.

Last August, an official of the Argentine Embassy in Washington said Lokman was detained for "political indoctrination of youth for the 'Monteros' terrorist group and acting as financial agent for the terrorist group 'Comandos revolucionarios' through use of a checking account in the First City National Bank in the city of Parana."

The Buenos Aires Herald, an English-language daily, reported Sept. 18 that no such bank exists in Parana and described the explanation by the Embassy official as "questionable," Rosenthal noted.

Rosenthal said the Herald reported that Lokman's lawyer said that "his client had never been charged with any offense but that it was being said he was being held for contacts with subversions, allegations which are strenuously denied by Lokman and his family."

Rosenthal said "In freeing Lokman, the national executive power of Argentina has acknowledged a serious injustice. His release leads to the hope that a more favorable trend is beginning for the many political prisoners whose freedom the ADL is seeking. Since three detainees have been released in the past two months, we hope the Argentine government will expedite the release of many more prisoners prior to the Christmas and New Year season."

WZO DEPARTMENT HAS \$2.7 M DEFICIT

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27 (JTA) -- The deficit of the Youth and Hechalutz Department of the World Zionist Organization has reached \$2.7 million, department head Avraham Katz reported yesterday. Katz said the deficit was caused by inflation and other elements which the department had no control over. He said efforts should be made to cover this deficit.

He explained that the department would have to cut some 20 percent of its budget and therefore, for the first time, there would be no subsidies for the thousands of overseas youth who come to Israel for summer projects of the Youth Department. Moreover, the department will have to cut down on the number of its emissaries overseas and use instead foreign graduates of the Institute for Overseas Guides after they return to their countries of origin. The youth movements will be asked to use joint emissaries.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

THE MORAL ISSUE OF NAZIS IN THE U.S.

By Rochelle Saidel Wolk

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Nov. 27 (JTA).

Wearing the uniform of an SS officer, a young rabbi strides into the dining room of the Concord Hotel, among the 2000 delegates who have gathered here for the biennial convention of the United Synagogue of America on Nov. 11.

Few people recognize the rabbi, and some mistake him for a neo-Nazi, registering shock or fear. Nevertheless, no one confronts him or tries to throw him out. Most delegates continue to gorge themselves on the Concord's delicacies, a la "Goodbye Columbus." Their attitude seems to be: if we pretend he's not here, he'll disappear.

Frustrated in his efforts to place the issue of Nazi war criminals in America on the convention's agenda, Rabbi Paul Siltan, Education Director of Temple Israel in Albany, N.Y., decided to create grass roots interest among the delegates by donning the startling attire.

With the cooperation of the Empire and New York Metropolitan Regions of the United Synagogue, Siltan had arranged a regional meeting on the subject, as a sidelight of the convention. Costumed to dramatize the issue, he was passing out fact sheets and invitations to all of the delegates in the dining room.

Says Issue Demands Resolution

At this regional meeting, more than 120 delegates heard Charles Allen, Jr., noted expert on Nazi war criminals in the U.S., discuss the "deep moral issue that demands resolution." For more than 35 years, Nazi genocidists and collaborators have found haven here, he told the delegates, and the U.S. government has known of their Nazi past. Allen originally exposed the scandal in 1963, but his charges were labeled "Communist motivated" by then Attorney General Robert Kennedy, he said.

Ten years later, the issue was brought up again, after Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) employes Vincent Schiano and Tony Devito left the INS, charging systematic cover-up of cases. Crediting Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D. NY), current chairperson of the House Judiciary subcommittee on immigration, and former Rep. Joshua Eilberg (D. Pa.), former chairman, with leadership in forcing the issue into the open, Allen said that he now has documented the presence of 286 alleged Nazi war criminals and collaborators living here.

"No American President has ever uttered one syllable about this issue," he said, urging pressure by citizens as "the only language that politicians can understand." While the FBI, CIA and State Department admitted utilizing some of these alleged Nazi war criminals in a 1978 report by the General Accounting Office of Congress, Allen said that he has documented evidence that 149 alleged Nazi criminals have been used by various U.S. agencies.

A special investigation unit was initiated in INS in 1974, and in May of 1979 the unit became the Office of Special Investigation in the Criminal Division of the Justice Department, headed by Walter Rockler. Twelve cases are in the courts, with a file of some 200 being investigated. To date, not one Nazi war criminal has ever been deported from the United States. (Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan was extradited to West Germany, where she is now on trial.)

"In all flat candor," Allen said, "the government has not been fast enough, certain enough, or accurate enough." He urged his audience to "encourage a positive, careful, scrupulous approach to the issue." The only source that can "force the final truth out" is Holtzman's committee, he explained. The committee has the powers of subpoena and contempt, and should hold hearings to force the intelligence agencies to reveal their complicity, he concluded.

An Act Of Desperation

Siltan explained that he had been asking the leadership of the United Synagogue convention to put the issue on the agenda for many months. "The fact is that I've begged, implored, made trips to New York to ask the leadership of United Synagogue of America to make this one of the major items discussed at this convention. I was turned down," he said.

"You saw me the other night, thinking I was some kind of kook in an SS uniform, handing out information sheets," he continued. "I did that as an act of desperation. When I asked if I might hand them out immediately prior to the showing of the musical version of 'The Diary of Anne Frank' (performed for the delegates the evening of Nov. 11), I was told that they did not want me to interfere with an evening of entertainment." The Holocaust has now become 'entertainment'.

Largely through Siltan's efforts, a resolution regarding the prosecution of Nazi war criminals was among the 30-odd resolutions presented to the delegates for their approval. Although United Synagogue had joined with other major Jewish organizations to monitor the effectiveness of prosecution of war criminals, publicize the need for eye-witnesses, and recommend that congregations contact representatives in Washington about the issue, this is the first time that a resolution was passed by the body, according to Muriel Bemar, director of the Joint Commission on Social Action for United Synagogue.

The resolution calls upon the President, Congress, and the Justice Department to expedite denaturalization and deportation hearings of Nazi war criminals. It further calls on all government agencies to furnish necessary documents to the Office of Special Investigation, regarding alleged Nazi war criminals. "We will not remain silent to the fact that these murderers of men, women and children have been allowed to find refuge in our land," the resolution concludes.

MEXICO CITY (JTA) -- Tribuna Israelita, a bi-monthly published in Spanish by the Central Jewish Committee of Mexico, marked its 35th anniversary with a cocktail party attended by prominent Mexican political figures, intellectuals and writers. The periodical has a large circulation among non-Jewish readers in Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries. Leon Krachmalnik is president of the special committee that publishes Tribuna Israelita. Its editor is Sergio Nudelstejer, secretary general of the Central Jewish Committee and representative of the American Jewish Committee for Mexico and Central America.

PARIS (JTA) -- A French committee for the safeguarding of Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) was set up Sunday. The committee calls for ensuring the Falashas' security and for international measures to enable them to leave Ethiopia for Israel, as most of them want. The committee is headed by Dr. J. C. Haddad, a local surgeon.