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## TENSION HEIGHTENS ON THE WEST BANK

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) -- Tension heightened on the West Bank over the weekend after Israel cracked down on the pro-Palestine Liberation Organization National Guidance Committee and shots were fired Friday night at the home of a leader of the Village Leagues, a group of moderate Palestinians who cooperate with the Israeli authorities.

Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's order last Thursday outlawing the National Guidance Committee -- which has in fact been inactive for the past 18 months -- was seen as a warning to Jordan to stop interfering in West Bank affairs. The Jordanian government announced officially last week that Village Leagues leaders who did not cease their collaboration with the Israelis within one month would be tried for treason in absentia and executed.

Israel is cultivating and financing the Village Leagues in an effort to create a counter-force to PLO influence on the West Bank. It hopes to eventually replace the pro-PLO mayors of Arab towns with moderates who will cooperate with Israel. As a first step, the West Bank civilian administration instituted by Sharon is handing over as many local functions as possible to moderate Palestinians.

### Core Of The National Guidance Committee

Most of the incumbent West Bank mayors are either PLO members or sympathizers who boycotted the civil administration. All were duly elected and six of them, headed by Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus, form the core of the National Guidance Committee. The committee's larger forum consists of 24 members representing local municipalities, vocational organizations, welfare and charitable groups, student bodies and the Moslem religious establishment.

Israel considers all of them to be irretrievably pro-PLO and describes Shaka as "the supreme commander of the PLO in the territories." Shaka and Mayor Karim Khalaf of Ramallah were severely wounded by bombs in June, 1980 and underwent amputations. The perpetrators, never apprehended, are widely believed to have been Jewish settlers bent on revenge for the ambush slaying of six yeshiva students in Hebron a month earlier.

Even before the National Guidance Committee was officially outlawed last week, its leaders were kept under town arrest to restrict their movements. Under the new order, even minor contacts between members, including letters and private conversations, could be considered illegal acts. Their telephones were "out of order" today.

The order was promulgated under the 1945 Emergency Regulations of the British Mandate government which allows the trial of violators before a military court without the right of appeal to civilian courts, including the Supreme Court.

Security forces arrested several persons after the shots were fired Friday night at the home of Fahri Issa in Beit Uniya, near Ramallah. Issa was formerly close to the Jordanian government but that tie was severed when he joined the local Village Leagues.

Mustapha Dadein, a Village Leagues leader from the Hebron area, claimed over the weekend that Saudi Arabia was behind Jordan's threat against Leagues leaders. Dadein met, at his own request, with Premier Menachem Begin Friday and asked for increased Israeli cash aid to the villages.

Meanwhile, unrest continued on the West Bank. A tourist bus carrying American pilgrims was stoned near Ramallah. Two of the Americans were injured. A melee erupted in Hebron where several score supporters of Israel's Peace Now movement demonstrated yesterday in sympathy with two local Arab families who said they were being harassed by Jewish settlers in the town.

## EGYPT EASING WAY FOR EGYPTIAN TOURISTS WHO WANT TO VISIT ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) -- The Egyptian authorities are removing some of the obstacles in the way of Egyptian tourists interested in visiting Israel. As a result, according to Moshe Cassuto, head of the Israel Government Tourist Office in Cairo, between 5,000-10,000 Egyptians may come to Israel this year, a major increase though still far less than the number of Israelis who have visited Egypt.

Cassuto disclosed in weekend press interviews that the Egyptian authorities are now issuing second passports to Egyptian citizens, obtainable within 2-4 weeks. The purpose is to avoid having Israeli entry stamps in their original passports which would prevent them from visiting other Arab countries. The Egyptians are also easing the maze of red tape which many Israelis suspected was a bureaucratic device deliberately intended to discourage Egyptians from visiting Israel.

Cassuto's prediction of increased Egyptian tourism to Israel is expected to produce a more favorable climate at the high level normalization talks that will begin in Tel Aviv tomorrow between Israeli and Egyptian teams headed by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, respectively. Hassan Ali is also scheduled to meet with Premier Menachem Begin in Jerusalem Tuesday and, separately, with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Observers expect the matter of President Hosni Mubarak's long delayed visit to Israel will be discussed. Mubarak was to have come to Israel this month. But he refuses to include Jerusalem on his itinerary and the Israeli government's position is that unless he does, he would not be welcome. Both governments are reportedly working toward a compromise arrangement. Other issues expected to be raised during Hassan Ali's three-day visit include border demarcation problems and the stalled autonomy talks.

## QADDAFI'S VISIT TO AUSTRIA WIDELY CRITICIZED BY LOCAL MEDIA, JEWISH COMMUNITY AND ISRAEL

By Monika Brenner and Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, March 14 (JTA) -- Col. Muammar Qaddafi of Libya ended a four-day official visit to Austria yesterday which was widely criticized

by the opposition parties, the local news media, the Jewish community and by Israel which regards the Libyan leader as its most implacable Arab foe.

Before leaving Vienna, Qaddafi held a press conference from which he tried but failed to exclude Jewish journalists. He bitterly attacked the United States and President Reagan personally. While he was in Austria, the U.S. announced an embargo on oil imports from Libya and gas and technology exports to that country.

According to Chancellor Bruno Kreisky who was Qaddafi's host, the Libyan leader had a long-standing invitation to visit Austria. Other sources indicated that he had in effect invited himself and Austria, heavily dependent on Libya for crude oil and searching for markets for its manufactured products, could not turn him down.

Qaddafi's visit focused on economic matters. But the Libyan strongman, increasingly isolated from the West and from the Arab world -- Saudi Arabia has called for his expulsion from the Arab League and from the Organization of African Unity -- hopes to establish better ties with Western Europe through the influence of Kreisky.

The Austrian Chancellor has in the past, introduced to European statesmen such persons as Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat, gaining for them a degree of respectability.

#### Arms Sales Discussed

Kreisky said that Austria is an uncommitted nation only in the military sense and considers itself part of the Western democratic world. As a neutral country, he said, Austria should have contact with the Third World countries, such as Libya. There were reports that members of Qaddafi's entourage had negotiated with Austrian businessmen about arms sales to Libya. Kreisky said he had not arranged those talks and would give no details.

Before Qaddafi left, the Jewish Community Board, which represents Austrian Jews, criticized the government for inviting him. Its statement noted that Austrian Jews have close relations with Israel and that Qaddafi is opposed to any solution to the Middle East conflict which would allow Israel to exist.

The leaders of two opposition parties -- Alois Mock, head of the conservative Volkspartei, and Norbert Steger, chairman of the right-liberal Freiheitliche Partei -- held separate press conferences Friday blasting Kreisky's regime for inviting Qaddafi. Mock said the visit would harm Austrian neutrality. Steger charged that the Socialist government was blind in one eye. He said Kreisky characterized dictatorships on the left as good and on the right as bad.

#### CABINET TO SET UP COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ARLOSOROFF CASE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) -- At the initiative of Premier Menachem Begin, the Cabinet resolved today to set up an official commission of inquiry headed by a judge to investigate the murder, 49 years ago, of Mapai (Labor) leader Haim Arlosoroff who was found dead on a Tel Aviv beach in 1933.

The decision followed a revived controversy over the murder, triggered by the publication of a book by a leading Israeli historian, Shabtai Tevet, which appeared to cast doubt on the acquittal of two young Revisionists, Avraham Stavsky and Zvi Rosenblatt, who were originally arrested for the murder.

In an extraordinary move, Begin ordered the full transcript of the Cabinet's two-hour discussion of the matter made public. Cabinet sources said it contained a lengthy speech by Begin and reminiscences by many Herut ministers of how they or their families were harassed by Mapai in the years following the murder.

The crime deepened the bitterness between the then Labor majority and the Revisionist movement in Palestine and among the Zionists in the diaspora in the 1930's.

#### Certain To Spark Debate

Some observers believe Begin wants to fan the flames of the old controversy at this time to focus local media attention away from the withdrawal from Sinai next month. The Cabinet decision is certain to touch off a wave of press and public comments and arguments.

Under the 1958 Commissions of Inquiry Law, the President of the Supreme Court, Justice Moshe Landau, must choose a serving or retired senior judge to head the commission and two other persons, including at least one respected layman, to be members. The commission has powers of subpoena -- with arrest and imprisonment to back them up -- like a regular court of law.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, of the National Religious Party, and Minister-Without-Portfolio Yitzhak Modai, of Likud's Liberal Party wing, dissociated themselves from the Cabinet's decision to revive the Arlosoroff case. Burg warned that the commission would create divisions in the nation at a time when national unity was urgently needed.

#### MUBARAK SAYS AUTONOMY IMPASSE WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH NORMALIZATION

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA) -- Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak assured American Jewish Congress leaders who recently visited Egypt that stresses and strains brought on by sharp differences over autonomy will not interfere with "normalization" of relations between Israel and Egypt.

But he acknowledged there is no way to "narrow the gap" on autonomy in the next six weeks. The Camp David process of negotiating will ultimately succeed, but it cannot be forced into an "unrealistic timetable," he said. It will take time for Egypt and Israel to work out their differences, Mubarak told the visiting AJCongress mission during a private meeting in the presidential palace in Heliopolis. "Meanwhile, we must not lose patience."

The Egyptian head also had some kind words to say about Menachem Begin. "Prime Minister Begin is a tough negotiator, but he is a man of his word, a man of honor," Mubarak told the seven-member mission headed by AJCongress president Howard Squadron. "When he signs an agreement, he can be counted on to live up to its pledge. Mutual willingness to continue to talk is real reason for hope and for optimism."

Mubarak predicted that if there is an eventual autonomy agreement, Jordan "certainly will join" in a comprehensive peace arrangement, and the Palestinians will recognize that they "have to participate, regardless of the PLO."

But Mubarak was frank in listing immediate stumbling blocks to an agreement, including Egypt's inability to afford any compromises on autonomy at this time for fear of offending other Arab states. He also cited Israel's alleged failure to engage in "confidence building" measures to nullify the effects of its bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor, the attack on the Palestine Liberation Organization compound in Beirut and the extension of civil law to the Golan Heights.

Mubarak emphasized, however, that in spite of these problems, the normalization process will continue. Egypt will keep the door open to other Arab states, he noted, "but not at the expense of Israel. It is, after all, in the best interests of our neighbors (for us) to have good relations with Israel." After Cairo, the mission went to Israel where it met with Begin and other ranking officials.

### 500 PEOPLE RALLY TO EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH SINAI SETTLERS

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA) -- Some 500 people rallied today across from the United Nations at the Isaiah Wall to express solidarity with the settlers in northern Sinai who are opposed to the Israeli withdrawal from the peninsula, scheduled to be returned to Egypt April 25 as part of the Camp David peace agreement.

At the same time, rabbinical leaders and Jewish community representatives, who addressed the gathering, sponsored by 16 organizations, including the Americans for a Safe Israel, draped a 12-foot long placard at the steps of the Isaiah Wall which they said would more closely correspond with the anti-Israel actions of the UN. The sign, a passage from the Book of Isaiah (54:17), said: "No weapon that is formed against thee (Israel) shall prosper and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment shall be condemned."

The present inscription on the wall, which quotes from Isaiah 2:4, declares: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning tools; nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Neither shall they learn war no more." The present inscription on the Isaiah Wall became the focus of criticism following the Feb. 5 UN resolution condemning Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights and calling for the total isolation of Israel.

### Rally Focuses On Several Themes

The speakers at today's rally focused on several themes which included charges that: The Reagan Administration has reneged on its commitments to Israel by its continued efforts to sell weapons to moderate Arab countries; Egypt has committed "multiple violations" of its peace treaty with Israel; Premier Menachem Begin signed the Israeli-Egyptian peace accord under the "duress" of the military buildup by its other Arab neighbors. Some of the rally participants carried placards reading: "First Yamit, next Jerusalem"; "Yamit is Israel"; and "Next year, Yamit."

Rabbi Avraham Weiss, of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale (NY), said that Begin operates by "assuming certain strengths" in the American Jewish community will support him. He said that if Begin decides not to withdraw from Sinai, the American Jewish community will support his actions. Weiss announced that on April 25, the day Israel is scheduled to withdraw from Sinai, an organization called the "Movement to Stop American Abandonment of Israel" will march on Washington.

Included among the groups supporting the rally at the Isaiah Wall were: The Rabbinical Alliance of America, Poale Agudath Yisrael (Religious Labor Party), Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, Herut of Washington, and the Council of Orthodox Synagogues of the Greater Washington area.

### SQUADRON: U.S. JEWS HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO FIGHT FOR ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said today that the American Jewish community has the obligation to make of itself a "bloody nuisance" in support of Israel and the Jewish people.

The community has the "burden" to "fight for Israel and the Jewish people" and at the same time to fight to "save Western values and the American dream," he told some 1500 young Jewish leaders from across the country. Squadron spoke at the opening session of the third annual United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Conference sponsored by the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet and the Young Women's Leadership Cabinet.

Edward Robin, chairman of the Young Leadership Cabinet, said the purpose of the conference, which ends Tuesday, is "to develop a public agenda and express it with a national voice." He said this generation of American Jews has had "every benefit of American society" and has the ability and the obligation to confront the problems facing the Jewish people.

Vicki Agron, of Denver, chairwoman of the Young Women's Leadership Cabinet, said the aim of the conference was to "motivate Jews from across the country to participate in the architecture of our history."

### Paints A Gloomy Picture

Squadron, in his speech, painted a gloomy picture of what will happen after Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai April 25. He said that since the death of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, the Egyptians have been unable to make any concessions to Israel for fear of attacks from the Arab world that they are doing something for Israel which they do not have to do since they are getting Sinai back.

Squadron, who met with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt when he visited Washington last month, said Egypt will stick to the peace treaty but seems to indicate that there will be no movement in the autonomy talks. He said the Israelis might follow the advice of the late Moshe Dayan and declare autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip unilaterally, giving the residents there the option of accepting limited autonomy or going on with the situation as it is now.

He said that if Israel goes ahead with unilateral autonomy, it would face increased hostility from the Arab world and the Communist world and probably the Europeans. Squadron said that while American Jews are divided on many issues in the U.S., they are united in support of Israel.

During his speech, Squadron attacked Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria both for his meetings in Vienna last week with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi and for an interview published in a French newspaper earlier this year in which Kreisky rejected the concept of a Jewish people.

Squadron said he sent a telegram to Kreisky about Qaddafi's four-day visit to Austria in which he pointed out that anti-Semites "do not distinguish between Zionist Jews and assimilationist Jews" like the Chancellor. Squadron said he plans to meet tomorrow with Austrian Foreign Minister Willipad Pahr who will be in Washington this week.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Workers from the Jewish Agency, under the watchful eye of the army, are continuing dismantling agricultural equipment from villages in the Yamit area.

## AJCONGRESS BRINGS SUIT AGAINST TREASURY DEPARTMENT TO DISCLOSE RECORDS OF ARAB DOLLAR HOLDINGS

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) — The Federal District Court for the District of Columbia has scheduled to hear oral arguments on March 19 in a suit brought by the American Jewish Congress to force the Treasury Department to disclose records showing the dollar holdings in the United States of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

The Jewish group, acting under the Freedom of Information Act, submitted a request to the Treasury Department last year to obtain the documents. It asked for release of data listing the amounts of funds on deposit in American banks and the amounts of Treasury bills owned or held by each of the three Arab oil-producing states.

AJCongress charged that the growing size of Arab investment in the United States is of "particular concern" because of the "concomitant increase in the influence by these three countries over American foreign policy in the Middle East." It added that information obtained on the size and scope of such investments may form the basis for recommending further legislation.

The Treasury Department turned down the Jewish organization's request. A subsequent administrative appeal was also rejected by Treasury officials. It claimed that under the International Investment Survey Act of 1976 and the Bretton Woods Agreement Act, the government is forced to keep such information confidential. These acts require the collection and publication of country-by-country data on foreign investments in this country, but prohibit disclosure of statistics on individual investors.

A suit was then filed on behalf of the AJCongress by Joel Levy, a Washington attorney and a vice president of the organization, seeking release of the material. The suit claims such disclosure would not violate the prohibition on investment data pertaining to holdings of individual investors.

### Claims And Counterclaims

AJCongress contends that since the specific documents requested are not exempt from disclosure under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, the Treasury Department is legally obliged to release them. The act, continues the brief, "embodies a general philosophy of full agency disclosure." Accordingly, the burden of establishing that certain items of information are exempt from disclosure rests with the Treasury Department. But the department has failed to prove such a case, according to the Jewish organization.

The Treasury Department maintains that the percentage of American bank deposits and Treasury bills held by single customers — in this case the governments of the three Arab countries involved — is so high that any publication of the information would be a disclosure of their individual investment positions. Treasury officials allege, therefore, that they are precluded from releasing the information without the written consent of the customers involved.

Furthermore, the Treasury Department contends it is justified in withholding the data because it has classified the information as "confidential" in the interests of national security. The AJCongress brief rejects the argument, saying Treasury does not have the right to classify data when Congress has ordered, through legislation, that such data be published.

"The AJCongress claims that Treasury is in fact seeking to conceal individual figures for Arab states by lumping together the totals of the 13 Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), a practice it does not follow with other nations."

The Jewish organization says the real reason is a 1974 commitment to Arab governments by William Simon, then Treasury Secretary, who wanted to induce the Arabs to purchase Treasury securities while protecting them from public knowledge of the extent of Arab investment in this country.

The refusal of the federal government to list country-by-country figures for the OPEC nations has also been challenged by the House Sub-Committee on Commerce and Monetary Affairs, chaired by Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal (D. NY) who has threatened to subpoena the concealed documents.

### SOVIETS URGED TO FREE SHCHARANSKY

SAN FRANCISCO, March 14 (JTA) — Mayor Dianne Feinstein has issued a proclamation urging "all those who cherish freedom" to call upon the Soviet Union to release Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky "and allow him to join his wife, Avital, in Israel."

At the same time, California State Senator David Roberti (D) introduced a joint resolution in the State Senate asking the USSR to release Shcharansky. The resolution noted that March 15 is the fifth anniversary of Shcharansky's imprisonment. Addressing the Senate last week, Roberti declared: "Anatoly Shcharansky's only crime was his unflinching defense of human rights for Jews and other people of the Soviet Union."

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BOON (JTA) — The government of East Germany was sharply attacked over the weekend by Israel's Ambassador to West Germany, Yitzhak Ben Ari, for the reception it accorded last week to Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat by East Germany's leader Erich Honecker and Prime Minister Willi Stoph. Arafat was received with the pomp and circumstances befitting a head of state. Ben Ari also denounced the East German government for its policy of cooperating with the PLO. He noted that one of the training centers for Palestinian terrorists is a site adjacent to the former Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald.

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PARIS (JTA) — Egyptian-born poet and novelist Edouard Jabes has been awarded this year's prize by the French Foundation for Jewish Culture. The 56-year-old writer, who has published over a dozen volumes, is due to visit Israel later this month for a series of lectures organized by the Hebrew and Bar Ilan Universities. This year's award consisted of a 75,000 Franc (\$12,500) prize.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) — A world gathering of wartime Jewish partisans is to be held in Jerusalem next year to mark the 40th anniversary of the ghetto uprising against the Nazis. The Cabinet took a decision to this effect Sunday, and charged Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhak Mordechai with responsibility for arranging the event.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) — The strike of Golan Druze is now in its third week, with the army still blockading the three main Druze villages on the Heights. An estimated 85 percent of the Druze population is still observing the strike, despite government claims that more and more Druze are ready to return to work, mainly as building laborers in Israel proper.