

TWO MORE WEST BANK MAYORS OUSTED; 1 ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED, 3 OTHER SOLDIERS AND 3 LOCAL CIVILIANS WOUNDED IN GAZA STRIP VIOLENCE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA) — Israeli authorities ousted two more West Bank mayors last night. Bassam Shaka of Nablus and Karim Khalaf of Ramallah were removed from office on grounds that they were agents of the Palestine Liberation Organization directly responsible for inciting the violence that has erupted in the occupied territories this past week. They were immediately replaced by Israeli army officers.

As the violence continued, an Israeli army sergeant was killed by a hand grenade in Gaza this morning and three other soldiers and three local civilians were wounded. It was the first fatality suffered by Israel's armed forces in nearly a week of violent confrontations with Palestinian demonstrators during which five Arab youths were killed. There were stoning incidents today in Nablus, Jenin and East Jerusalem.

Mayors Shaka and Khalaf were ordered to the headquarters of the Israeli commander of the West Bank, Gen. Uri Or last night to receive their dismissal papers. It was almost one week to the day after Mayor Ibrahim Tawil of El Bireh and his town council were summarily removed from office for refusing to cooperate with the Israeli civilian regime set up on the West Bank late last year.

The ouster of El Bireh's elected officials triggered the series of violent demonstrations on the West Bank which spread this week to the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

But David Kimche, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, explaining Israel's actions to the Egyptian Ambassador Saad Mortada today, claimed that the PLO was inciting the West Bank Arabs because it feared it was losing influence in the territory. The Israelis singled out Shaka as the "supreme commander" of the PLO on the West Bank.

Mayors Refuse To Sign Dismissal Orders

The two mayors refused to sign their dismissal orders or accept them. They said they still considered themselves the elected mayors of their respective towns. The Nablus and Ramallah town councils were not removed but declared that they would not cooperate with the Israeli authorities.

Both mayors denied any connection with the disturbances. Khalaf acknowledged that he was a member of the National Guidance Committee, the overall Palestinian political body on the West Bank which Israel outlawed last week. The Israelis claim the Committee was a front for the PLO.

Shaka and Khalaf are probably the best known of the West Bank mayors. They garnered widespread sympathy abroad after both were seriously maimed by bombs planted in their cars in June, 1980. Shaka had both legs paralyzed. The outrage was widely attributed to Jewish extremists seeking revenge for the ambush slaying of six yeshiva students in Hebron a month earlier. Nearly two years after the crime the perpetrators have not been apprehended, although the Israeli authorities say they are investigating.

The mayors received heroes' welcomes when they returned to the West Bank after many months in hospitals abroad. Although Shaka's deportation was sought by then Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, it was prevented by legal action. Since then, however, the Israeli authorities made no secret of the fact that they wanted him out of office and were only waiting for an opportune moment.

Labor Alignment Accused

Meanwhile, Premier Menachem Begin's government which was brought to the brink of resignation Tuesday because of a tie vote in the Knesset on a no-confidence motion critical of its handling of the unrest on the West Bank, continued today to accuse the opposition Labor Alignment of responsibility for the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories.

According to the government, the previous Labor-led government practically invited the PLO into the West Bank when it permitted free municipal elections there in 1976. The elections brought into office a younger generation of mayors who are staunch Palestinian nationalists with links to the PLO.

That allegation was made by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon in an angry exchange with Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres during the Knesset debate Tuesday. It was repeated today by other government sources and Likud MKs.

The Labor Party for its part called the ouster of the mayors "hasty" and demanded that the government halt the "crazy deterioration" of the situation in the occupied territories. Labor charged that Likud was destroying all prospects for a dialogue with the Palestinians and was injuring Israel's moral strength. Hadash (Communist) MK Meir Wilner appealed today to President Yitzhak Nivon to intervene to stop the deterioration.

Claim Aim Is To Destroy The PLO

The government has made it clear that its present policy is aimed at removing all PLO influence from the West Bank and building up a counterforce among local Arabs willing to cooperate with Israel. The Arab mayors say Israel is determined to remove them in order to tighten its grip on the territories.

The mayors issued a statement today protesting the dismissals of Shaka and Khalaf. The acting Mayor of Hebron, Mustapha Natshe, charged that the dismissals were "a measure of suppression" and claimed the military government had lost its nerve. Hebron's elected Mayor, Fahd Kawassme, was deported two years ago.

Tawil, who was removed from office in El Bireh last week, said he was not surprised by the latest move. Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, whom the Israelis acknowledge to be a moderate, said he was deeply depressed by the situation. He said that if Shaka and Khalaf were guilty of anything they should have been brought to trial and convicted.

The fatal incident in Gaza this morning occurred on the main road. Two masked men hurled grenades at a passing Israeli military vehicle and

escaped into nearby orchards. Much of the city was closed down by a strike.

Security forces were stoned in Nablus where one Israeli soldier was reported slightly injured. Most of the town's stores remained open as large contingents of soldiers and border police patrolled the streets. Students demonstrated against the dismissal of the mayor. The area around the town hall was cordoned off by Israeli troops.

In Jenin, Palestinian flags were raised and stones were thrown at Israeli vehicles. A partial strike continued in East Jerusalem despite attempts by Israeli police to force merchants to open their shops. Several Israeli vehicles were stoned.

SOLDIERS LOSE ROUND TO YAMIT SETTLERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 25 (JTA) -- The Israeli army lost a skirmish last night with militant residents and squatters in Yamit opposed to Israel's withdrawal from Sinai next month. The retreat by soldiers in face of civilian wrath was called unprecedented by newspapers today.

The soldiers, men and women in full battle kit, were bussed into Yamit yesterday to occupy premises already evacuated in order to prevent squatters from taking them over. Their attempt to establish a base in the local school house was frustrated by angry civilians gathered there. Tempers ran high, harsh words were exchanged and scuffles ensued.

When the soldiers, following their orders, tried to occupy "empty" houses and flats they found the doors barred, which had to be broken down. Inside, men, women and children cursed at the soldiers, pummeled them and tore the battle kits off their backs. A senior army officer finally ordered the troops out of town, leaving a small unarmed squad to guard unoccupied dwellings. The others were forced to wait for hours in a downpour until the buses returned.

Police sources said today that charges would be brought against residents and squatters who used force against the soldiers.

FRANCE CALLS FOR END TO VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 25 (JTA) -- France called today for an end to violence in the Middle East and urged all states "to respect democratic freedoms so as to halt the chain of violence and repression." The government statement was issued by Presidential spokesman Pierre Berezgoy after a Cabinet meeting chaired by President Francois Mitterrand.

France, the spokesman said, disapproves of "any unilateral measures imposed on any state or people." Berezgoy stressed that this was standard French policy and applies to all issues in the area.

The official statement was couched in highly diplomatic terms apparently in order to try and take into account the Arab stand without provoking, however, Israel or the local Jewish community.

The government last Sunday lost the regional provincial elections to the center-right and certain leading Socialists believe that many Jews who had voted for Mitterrand last year have since switched their vote. Socialist leaders reportedly privately urged Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson to avoid giving offense to the Jewish community.

Cheysson yesterday, apparently in response to these pleas, issued a carefully worded statement terming the situation on the West Bank and Gaza "important and dramatic," but avoided assigning blame to any of the parties.

The Arab ambassadors in Paris are due to meet Cheysson tomorrow to urge France to take a more energetic stand. Arab League representative Mohammed Yazid has said the Arabs hope France will make its influence felt to stop the violence and press Israel to permit ousted El Bireh Mayor Ibrahim Tawil to return to his former post.

112 JEWISH PERSONALITIES, JEWISH-OWNED FIRMS ON NEO-NAZI 'HIT-LIST'

By David Kantor

BONN, March 25 (JTA) -- Security measures were tightened around Jewish institutions throughout West Germany today following the circulation of a neo-Nazi "hit-list" naming 112 Jewish personalities or Jewish-owned businesses as possible targets for terrorist acts. Most of the targets -- 95 -- are located in Austria and the rest in West Germany.

The list reportedly has appeared in Vienna, Munich and Hanau. The Interior Ministry in Bonn first learned of it from the Munich-based Pressedienst Demokratische Initiative. A Ministry spokesman said the authorities had no information of their own but were taking the matter seriously.

According to the Ministry, the list was originally appended to an edition of the Austrian Observer, a neo-Nazi newspaper owned by the National Socialist Party of Austria. It contained five addresses in Frankfurt and other cities and in West Berlin.

Interior Minister Gerhard Baum was said to be concerned that West German neo-Nazis trained by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon, would take the list as an invitation to start a new wave of violence. Baum warned in the Bundestag several weeks ago that the PLO was escalating its activities in West Germany in cooperation with local terrorist groups.

SENATE UNIT APPROVES RESOLUTION WARNING UN NOT TO TAKE ANY ACTION BARRING ISRAEL FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA) -- A resolution warning the United Nations against any action that would bar Israel from the General Assembly was approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by a 7-3 vote Tuesday.

The resolution, sponsored by Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D. NY) would suspend U.S. participation in the General Assembly and withhold U.S. funds if Israel or any other democratic state is "expelled, suspended, denied its credentials or in any way denied its rights and privileges in the General Assembly."

Voting against the resolution were Sens. Charles Percy (R. Ill.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Joseph Biden (D. Del.) and Christopher Dodd (D. Conn.). They supported an unsuccessful amendment by Dodd that would delete any specific reference to Israel. A spokesman for Dodd explained that this did not demonstrate any lessening of support for Israel but was an effort to give the amendment a more "broader" and "universal" meaning.

Rep. Jack Kemp (R. N.Y.) is sponsoring a resolution similar to Moynihan's in the House. The House will also consider another resolution introduced by Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.) which warns the UN against taking action against any democratic country but does not list any specific action the U.S. would take. The State Department supports the Lantos resolution which it drafted.

The State Department also warned the Senate committee that "it would not be wise for the Admin-

istration to declare specifically in advance what the U.S. response would be to a successful challenge to Israel's right to membership in the UN."

Both Moynihan and Kemp have rejected the State Department's position as "unwise," saying that the U.S. should send "an explicit message" to the UN to prevent any action against Israel from being taken.

BOOK DOCUMENTING NAZI SLAUGHTER OF 1.5 MILLION SOVIET JEWS IS RELEASED

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA) — "The Black Book," a lengthy, meticulously detailed documentation which provides "irrefutable evidence" of the Nazi slaughter of 1,500,000 Soviet Jews, one-fourth the total number of Jews slain in the Holocaust, was the focus of a reception yesterday marking its release in English for the first time.

Speaking to some 200 people at the Halloran House here, Theodore Freedman, national director of the program division of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, related the story behind the publication. He said the book was originally approved for publication in 1948, but was then removed from the presses by Stalin when Soviet policy became anti-Israel. Every sign of the book was erased, he explained. The type was killed, books already printed were destroyed and the manuscript was "obliterated."

But according to Freedman, one copy was preserved and smuggled into Israel where it was acquired by Yad Vashem, the Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem, and subsequently published by them in 1980 in the original Russian.

"The Black Book," compiled and edited by Soviet authors Ilya Ehrenburg and Vasili Grossman, is a collection of diaries, private letters and eyewitness accounts by Jews who escaped annihilation in such Nazi massacre sites as Babi Yar, Rumbul, Berdichev, Ponary, Vinnitsa, Kharkov, Minsk, Vilna, Treblinka, Sobibor, Auschwitz, and others in Nazi-occupied Russia and Poland. It was translated from the Russian by John Glad and James Levine.

Among those addressing the reception, co-sponsored by the ADL's Center for Studies on the Holocaust, The Holocaust Library which published the book, and Schocken Books, its distributor, was the noted author Elie Wiesel, who praised the book. He declared that "very few volumes have the depth, the strength, the tears, the courage and the information" that this book provides.

STATEMENT REITERATES PROFOUND CONCERN OVER WEST BANK VIOLENCE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA) — The State Department continued to say today that it was "profoundly concerned" by the violence on the West Bank and Gaza Strip which, it said, "has resulted in needless and tragic deaths and injury to Palestinians and Israelis alike."

The statement, which like all others in the past several days issued by the State Department avoided placing blame for the situation, also said: "It is a serious source of regret to us that appeals for restraint to calm the situation have as yet had no effect."

Department spokesman Dean Fischer also expressed today the Administration's "regret" over the removals of the mayors of Nablus and

Ramallah by the Israeli authorities. "We always regarded the Israeli decision to permit municipal elections as a progressive and helpful policy. Consistent with this position we regret — as we have made clear previously — the removal of elected municipal officials on the West Bank," he said.

Withdrawal Timetable Not Affected

Fischer said the U.S. does not believe the situation on the West Bank and Gaza Strip will affect the timetable of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai on April 25. He said that Premier Menachem Begin has "consistently" said he would "adhere" to Israel's commitments under the Camp David agreements. "We believe the withdrawal will take place on schedule," Fischer said.

The spokesman rejected a suggestion by an Arab reporter that U.S. troops in the new Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), which will police Sinai after Israel withdraws, should be used to restore peace to the West Bank and Gaza. This is "not an option under serious consideration," Fischer said.

Meanwhile, the State Department has scheduled a ceremony tomorrow morning at which Secretary of State Alexander Haig will sign the MFO agreement for the U.S. The other signatory is MFO Director General Leonam Hunt.

LATE BULLETIN

NUDEL RELEASED FROM EXILE

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA) — Ida Nudel, the "angel" of the Soviet Jewish emigration movement, was released from her four years of exile in Siberia today and is on her way to Moscow, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jewry reported here today. Soviet Jewry groups have been urging the Soviet government to allow Ms. Nudel, 51, to join her family in Israel as soon as she is released.

STATE DEP'T. SAYS IT DISCUSSED IRAQI-IRANIAN WAR WITH ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA) — The State Department admitted today that it has discussed the Iraqi-Iranian war with Israel. But it refused to say whether it had asked Israel to stop sending arms to Iran or whether Israel was, in fact sending arms to that country. State Department spokesman Dean Fischer however, left the implication that the arms issue has been discussed with Israel.

That appeared to be the gist of Fischer's remarks in the wake of news reports from Baghdad that Iraq has demanded several times of the Reagan Administration that it stop Israel from sending arms to Iran.

"Without getting into the specifics of our diplomatic exchanges, Iraq has raised reports of arms shipments to Iran with us from time to time," Fischer said. He added, "Again, without getting into the specifics of our diplomatic exchanges, we have, in the context, with our frequent contacts with the Israel government, there have been discussions regarding the Iraq-Iran war."

There have been frequent reports over the last 18 months that Israel has sold arms to Iran or arranged for Iran to obtain arms. Some of these arms reportedly were manufactured in Israel under U.S. license. In addition, many Arab countries have been supporting Iraq. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak revealed in his speech to the National Press Club here last month that Egypt has sent arms and ammunition to Iraq. Jordan has reportedly offered troops to Iraq's forces.

REPORT 30 PERCENT DROP IN ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS AGAINST PHILLY AREA SYNAGOGUES BETWEEN 1980-1981

PHILADELPHIA, March 25 (JTA) — In sharp contrast to Jewish communities generally throughout the United States and Canada, which have reported a growing number of anti-Semitic acts against synagogues and other Jewish institutions, synagogues in the Greater Philadelphia area have reported a 30 percent decrease in the number of such incidents between 1980 and 1981.

The results emerged from a comparison of surveys taken by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia for those years, according to Joseph Smukler, JCRC president. The survey for 1980 was based on 61 synagogues reporting. The survey for 1981 was based on 57 synagogues reporting, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told.

Smukler said the JCRC surveys revealed some increase in vandalism of synagogues reporting from the Philadelphia Northeast area, but that area followed the trend in the rest of the city by showing a drop in thefts between 1980 and 1981.

Security Measures Were Taken

Smukler said the overall decrease in theft and vandalism could be attributed "to a great extent" to security measures taken by many local synagogues which had been proposed last March at a special program on synagogue and institutional security sponsored by the JCRC and the Philadelphia Board of Rabbis. He said improvements in outdoor lighting systems, in particular, "have proven to be an effective deterrent against institutional vandalism." Other major steps taken included the installation of additional locks, alarm systems and safes.

Smukler expressed concern that a lower percentage of synagogues in the Northeast area had taken security measures than did other local synagogues, noting that Northeast synagogues constituted a quarter of those reporting in each survey.

Rabbi Gerald Wolpe of Har Zion Temple, Board of Rabbis president, said the "dramatic decrease" in vandalism of synagogues, "shows how successful a program can be when the community comes together to solve a problem."

Declines Between 1980 and 1981

Smukler said that, on the average, two-thirds of all synagogues in the area responded to the JCRC surveys. The percentage of synagogues reporting acts of vandalism and theft showed the following declines between 1980 and 1981.

Thefts of ritual silver: 25 percent in 1980 and nine percent in 1981; other thefts: 13 percent in 1980 and nine percent in 1981; acts of vandalism, including anti-Semitic graffiti: 26 percent in 1980 and 14 percent in 1981.

Smukler said no incidents were reported by 46 percent of the synagogues in 1980 and by 67 percent during 1981.

The program on security was arranged as a reaction to increases in thefts and vandalism at local houses of worship in 1980. The program included a seminar featuring representatives from the city government, the insurance and security industries, the Philadelphia police department, and distribution of a JCRC background report recommending security measures.

Burt Siegel, JCRC associate executive director and director of social action and urban affairs, noted that such problems were not unique to the Jewish community. He said Catholic and Protestant

churches throughout the country "have also been targets, with part of the cause unquestionably the increase in the value of precious metals."

He said the Torah thefts "are part of a wave of such acts which have been taking place in areas with large Jewish populations. The Philadelphia area has been relatively fortunate compared to New York where thefts of Torah scrolls had reached epidemic proportions."

The JCRC noted that in 1981, the Upper Darby police department had broken up a ring operating out of that community which was responsible for a number of robberies of houses of worship in the Philadelphia area. He said that, during the past few months, all members of the ring had been convicted of those crimes.

UN BEGINS DEBATE ON CURRENT UNREST ON THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 25 (JTA) — An Arab draft resolution requesting Israel to rescind its decision to disband the town council of El Bireh and dismiss its mayor, Ibrahim Tawil, was circulated here last night as the Security Council opened its debate on the current unrest on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The preliminary draft resolution also declares that Israel's dismissal of El Bireh's town council is "null and void" and that the action violates international law. The draft states that if Israel fails to comply, the Security Council should meet again at the end of April to take "appropriate measures," which could mean sanctions against Israel. In addition, the draft measure calls for Israel to be condemned for its actions on the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights.

Israel Says PLO Is Responsible

At the opening of last night's meeting, which was called by Jordan, Israel charged that the Palestine Liberation Organization was responsible for the current unrest on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Ambassador Yehuda Blum of Israel said that while Israel was building a "framework for the peaceful coexistence between Jew and Arab," the PLO and Jordan were "conspiring to destroy it."

The envoy charged that the PLO commanded the Arab leaders on the West Bank not to cooperate with the Israeli civilian authorities. This order by the PLO was obeyed by the mayor of El Bireh and he was therefore dismissed by the Israelis, Blum charged.

Ambassador Hazem Nuseibeh of Jordan termed the Israeli actions on the West Bank as "brutal acts of oppression." He called on the Security Council to ensure "with all means at its disposal, the termination of Israeli occupation which in some two months will have lasted 15 long years." He accused Israel of "wanton, inhuman and indiscriminate use of fire arms" against unarmed demonstrators. He claimed that Israel aimed at emptying the territories of the Arab-Palestinian population.

The Security Council, which meets today to hear a Nicaraguan complaint against the U.S., will probably continue its West Bank Gaza debate tomorrow.

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Thirty-nine members of the House have joined in a group to help support efforts for Soviet Jewry. The 97th Congressional Class on Soviet Jewry was organized by Reps. William Coyne (D. Pa.) and Christopher Smith (R. N.J.) to "dramatize the plight of prisoners of conscience and particularly long-term refuseniks who are seeking to emigrate from the Soviet Union."