

**MINISTRY REVIEW BOARD URGES
RECONSIDERATION OF DEPORTATION
OF REPUTED FATAH LEADER**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Gen. Amnon Shahak, head of the Central Command, is weighing a recommendation by a military review board that he reconsider his decision to order the expulsion of Khalil Abu-Ziad, a reputed Fatah leader in the West Bank. Abu-Ziad was served with a deportation order last week.

The review board has till now been considered a rubber stamp for the approval of such decisions by the area commander, and its recommendation to reverse Shahak's decision took defense officials by surprise.

The Ramallah military tribunal, under the chairmanship of Col. Avi Gorfinkel, found that "in spite of the legal and justified reason for issuing the expulsion order, and although the evidence we have heard links the petitioner with the Fatah organization, there is nothing to link him directly with terrorist attacks.

"Therefore, we recommend that the military commander reconsider whether, under the circumstances and considering the role of the petitioner in Fatah, deportation is necessary in view of its extremely drastic and serious nature."

Defense Ministry Ordered To Show Cause

The High Court of Justice in Jerusalem yesterday ordered the defense ministry to show cause within three days why Abu-Ziad should be deported. The Court barred any deportation action until the outcome of the hearing.

If the order is implemented, the deportation would become the first such action implemented under the Cabinet's new strong-arm policies in the occupied territories. Abu-Ziad, who owns an East Jerusalem book store said to be a meeting place for Palestine Liberation Organization activists, has been under house arrest since 1982.

He charged in his appeal to the Supreme Court that the deportation order was not required to assure the security of the public nor to maintain public order. He charged that the order was issued merely as an expression of the new policy as a deterrence measure and that considerations behind the order were of an arbitrary nature.

HONDURAN F.M. ARRIVES IN ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- The Foreign Minister of Honduras, Dr. Edgardo Paz Barnica, arrived in Israel today from Cairo, bringing with him a note from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak which he will deliver to Premier Shimon Peres when they meet here later this week. Barnica was greeted at the airport by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Speaking to reporters at the airport, Barnica said that Honduras hopes to receive additional agricultural and technical aid from Israel, but no further military assistance "of the types obtained from Israel till now." He did not describe what these types were.

The President of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, was quoted in an interview in Haaretz last week as charging that Israel was training and arming the United States-backed Contra rebel forces fighting for the overthrow of the Sandinista government from bases in Honduras.

Ortega said also that he thought Israel was being "manipulated" in this respect by the Reagan Administration in Washington and said he was ready to show proof of such Israeli assistance to the Contras. The Foreign Ministry issued a statement denying Ortega's charges.

**MURPHY RETURNING TO MIDEAST IN
ATTEMPT TO REVIVE PEACE EFFORTS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, is going to the Middle East, apparently in an attempt to revive the peace process following the failure of the Arab Summit in Casablanca, Morocco, last week to support the peace efforts of King Hussein of Jordan.

The State Department's announcement today of the Murphy trip did not mention the summit and, as read by Deputy spokesman Charles Redman, had an optimistic tone to it. Murphy is going to the Mideast "to consult further on how best to move the peace process forward," Redman said. He said Murphy will be visiting Israel, Egypt and Jordan, and there was a possibility that the trip could be extended to other countries.

But Redman stressed that no final decision has yet been made on Murphy meeting with a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation since the U.S. has still not approved any of the Palestinians on a list sent it by Hussein as members of the Palestinian delegation.

"As we have constantly said, we are prepared to take part in such a meeting if arrangements can be mutually agreed and if the meeting clearly leads to our objectives of direct negotiations between the parties," Redman said. "It remains our conviction that only through a negotiated settlement can a just and lasting peace between Israel and all its neighbors be achieved."

Report Delegation To Meet With Murphy

In Israel, meanwhile, Hana Siniora, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic newspaper Al-Fajar and named as one of the West Bank Palestinians to the joint delegation, told reporters at the Foreign Press Association here that the delegation will meet with Murphy before the end of the month. Siniora did not provide additional details. He is scheduled to soon leave for Jordan. Another Palestinian representation from the administered territories, Fayez Abu Rakhme, of Gaza, is already in Jordan.

A senior State Department official briefing reporters later said one of the "options" for this trip was that Murphy could meet with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if the obstacles could be overcome. But he conceded that Hussein is still insisting that the U.S. talk to members of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which the U.S. refuses to do and which is why the list has not been approved. Most of the names on the list, which was drawn up by PLO chief Yasir Arafat, are members of the PLO.

Israel Radio reported last week that Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead told Israeli officials in Jerusalem that Hussein stressed to him that he would not change any of the names on the list. State Department officials refused to confirm this today. The official briefing reporters said Murphy will be talking to Palestinians in Jerusalem and Amman as he has done on all his previous visits to the Mideast. He refused to say whether this would include any of the persons on Hussein's list.

International Mideast Confab

The official said another obstacle is Hussein's insistence that peace negotiations must be held in the context of an international meeting which will include the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. The U.S. rejects it and particularly opposes including the Soviet Union in the peace process because it has no diplomatic relations with Israel, among other reasons.

The official had no assessment on recent reports that the Soviet Union is moving toward diplomatic relations with Israel, except to note that the USSR has interests in the Mideast and is apparently trying various options.

The official stressed that the most important issue to be resolved before Murphy can meet with a joint delegation is that the talks have to lead to direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan and the Palestinians.

However, Israel is opposed to any U.S. meeting with the joint delegation before direct negotiations are held. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir reaffirmed this in a speech last Friday, charging that the U.S. was falling into a trap since the only purpose of the meeting was to bring about U.S. recognition of the PLO.

No U.S. Assessment Of Arab Summit

Meanwhile, the U.S. had no assessment about the Arab summit which only a week ago the State Department has called "a significant event" which it hoped will provide backing for Hussein. "In so far as the (summit) conference enhances the prospect for negotiation, a peaceful resolution of differences, it obviously has our support," Redman said.

But the Administration may be showing its resentment of the failure of at least one country, Saudi Arabia, to support the peace process at Casablanca by not having Murphy visit it on his upcoming trip. Saudi Arabia is usually part of the itinerary for any such trip.

The Saudis may have prevented the summit from achieving the hopes the U.S. had for it when King Fahd did not attend, thus downgrading its importance. Instead Fahd sent his Foreign Minister, Crown Prince Abdullah, who reportedly prevented any condemnation of Syria, which opposes the Hussein peace effort, did not attend the Casablanca conference nor did Libya, Algeria, South Yemen and Lebanon.

LEBANESE DETAINEES TO BE RELEASED

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA) — Another 100 Lebanese detainees held at the Atlit military camp since their transfer there from the Ansar detention camp in south Lebanon as the Israel Defense Force withdrew from Lebanon, will be released tomorrow, military sources said today. Some 1,200 Lebanese detainees were transferred from Ansar to Atlit last April.

The 100 detainees will be taken to Lebanon through the Rosh Hanikra border crossing and released at Ras Bayda at the edge of the south Lebanon security zone. With their release, the Atlit camp's Lebanese population will be reduced to about 250 detainees, who are scheduled to soon be released in small groups. Last month, Israel released several hundred Lebanese held at Atlit. (By Hugh Orgel)

BAKER URGED TO INVESTIGATE DEPT. OFFICIAL WHOSE LETTER TO CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY INVOKED 'CHRISTIAN NATION' By Aviva Cantor

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA) — Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D. Colo.) called today upon Treasury Secretary James Baker to investigate the activities of a self-described Christian activist in his department who wrote a California attorney that "the U.S. is a 'Christian nation' as more than 85 percent of adult Americans consider themselves 'Christians'."

The activities of the Treasury employe, Christopher Sundseth, came to light when a postcard sent by Gerald Leib of Mountain View, California, to the Education Department received a reply from Sundseth which Schroeder described as "of a threatening nature."

Sundseth subsequently told news media that he "and a small network of friends in government jobs" are involved in a letter-writing campaign to "anti-religious zealots." Schroeder asked Baker to look into Sundseth's activities to check if his "pen pal club meets on government time, uses government facilities or is the unauthorized recipient of government documents."

Postcard To Tancredo Sets Off Controversy

The case began when Leib wrote to Tom Tancredo, the Education Department's regional representative in Denver. His postcard protested Tancredo's mailing to Christian schools in his area, earlier this year, a speech saying godlessness had taken over "this Christian nation." The speech had been written five years earlier by former Moral Majority leader Robert Billings, then an Education Department official.

Leib wrote Tancredo that "the U.S. is not now and never has been a Christian nation, as Billings claims" and that as a "non-Christian" he was "upset at his (Billings) blatant preference for the Christian religion." Leib is reportedly Jewish.

Tancredo never replied to the postcard, but Leib did receive a letter from Sundseth, a political appointee of the Reagan Administration who works as a GS-13 special assistant at the Inter-American Development Bank at the Treasury Department. He wrote:

"This country was founded by Christians who were escaping the same kind of small minded tripe you espouse. The framers of the constitution attempted specifically to anticipate those of your ilk who would try and abridge the very rights of freedom to worship guaranteed us by that document."

Calling Leib "a truly amazing but pathetic creature" whose "knowledge of this country's history and structure of government is minimal at best," Sundseth concluded in his P.S.: "When you die, you will be giving account to Jesus Christ, your creator, who happens himself to be a Christian. I hope you are prepared ..."

Sundseth, who wrote the letter to Leib on his personal stationary from an address in Alexandria, Virginia, is a former director of the Adolph Coors Company's political action committee. He was a fundraiser, vice chairman for finance, for President Reagan's

1980 campaign in Colorado, and received the appointment to his Treasury position last year. His mother, Carolyn Sundseth, is a White House public liaison officer with evangelical and fundamentalist Christians and conservative women.

In various interviews with the press last week, Sundseth said that "in my free time I'm a Christian activist I didn't give up my right to express my opinion when I came to government." He said he had written 120 to 150 letters in the past few years, mostly criticizing editorials. "I don't think what I said in my letter conflicted with the essence of Mr. Reagan's beliefs. "It's a Biblical injunction to warn people" about eventually facing Jesus Christ, "so I warned the guy. I'm saying nothing different from what is in the Bible."

'Couple Of Christian Guys Writing Letters'

Sundseth also told reporters that he and a small network of friends in government jobs "write a lot of letters" He and his activist friends, he said, use the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) "to find letters of anti-religious zealots ... anybody that says anything about Christians is automatically filed by these people. It's knee-jerk reaction, it's not a big conspiracy -- it's a couple of Christian guys writing letters."

Sundseth told reporters he believes the postcard was obtained from one of four Christian activists who regularly file FOI requests with federal agencies for correspondence dealing with Christian issues. He said these friends, whom he refused to identify, send such letters to him and he often replies to their writers.

In another press interview, Sundseth described Tancredo as an "acquaintance," part of the small group of appointees from Colorado. He said he had not seen him since Reagan's inauguration.

Access To Postcard Questioned

Leib, in a letter to Tancredo following his receipt of the letter from Sundseth, asked how Sundseth, if he is not an Education Department employe, "gained access to my citizen's postcard to you ... ?" He also asked Tancredo where the postcard is now, adding that an officer in the Education Department had written him that "the postcard is not a part of the departmental files."

Schroeder, originally asked by Leib to look into how Sundseth got a hold of his postcard to Tancredo, wrote twice to the Education Department with this question. In a written response in July, George Youstra, acting director of the department's regional liaison unit, said Tancredo had told him that his office received earlier this year a large number of public inquiries and requests for information in regard to its mailing of Billings' speech.

Complete File On Billings' Speech

Tancredo's practice, he said, "was to respond to such requests by sending out copies of the complete file, including all correspondence on this subject. Mr. Leib's postcard, which was part of the files, appears to have been sent to Mr. Sundseth in response to such a request for information." Youstra added that Tancredo "has no control over how individuals may subsequently utilize the public documents that are obtained through the Freedom of Information Act."

Last week, an Education Department spokesperson, Lou Mathis, apparently dismissed Youstra's FOIA theory as an explanation of how the postcard got to Sundseth when he told reporters that had there been a request under the FOIA there would have been a written request in the department's files. The department, he said, did not know how Sundseth got the postcard, nor did Tancredo himself know how it got out "and there was no record kept of it."

Schroeder, in her letter to Baker today, pointed out that Sundseth's letter to Leib in California was sent within two weeks of Leib's having mailed the postcard to Denver. "There is some indication that the names and addresses of the people" to whom "threatening letters" such as this were sent "had been obtained by the unauthorized removal of the correspondence from the Department of Education."

HELMS, IN ISRAEL, SAYS HE WILL SEEK ISRAEL-U.S. DEFENSE PACT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Visiting United States Sen. Jesse Helms (R. NC) told reporters at a news conference yesterday that he will initiate a defense agreement between the United States and Israel that would include military air strips, joint research and development, and cooperation in other fields.

Helms, who at one time was regarded as highly critical of Israel, has recently changed his views and now said that Israel should incorporate the West Bank and Gaza Strip into Israel.

He said that after visiting "Judaea and Samaria he fully agreed with the position that the area is not only important to the defense of Israel but also is part of the nation's heritage. According to Helms, the American people should realize that Israel is the "only reliable ally of America in this area which is anti-Communist, with impeccable moral principles."

He said that many Americans might believe that a defense agreement with Israel might mean U.S. troops would have to fight in the Jewish State. "But that is not so," he said. "I have met Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and understand that Israel does not need nor want American troops to fight here." Helms is in Israel on a private visit together with Sen. Chic Hecht. (R. Nev.).

PERES CONVENES MEETING ON TABA

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres convened yesterday afternoon a high level consultation in a renewed effort to move ahead toward resolution of the continuing dispute between Israel and Egypt over Taba, a tiny strip of beachfront on the border just south of the Israeli port of Eilat, on the Gulf of Aqaba.

Peres consulted with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Ezer Weizman and Avraham Tamir, Director General of the Premier's office. Peres reportedly sought to reach an agreement with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir to discuss the Taba controversy in the Cabinet, toward passing the issue for international arbitration.

The Voice of Israel radio reported that at the meeting the Cabinet Ministers reviewed an expert's document, which indicated that the Israeli case in the Taba controversy was not without its merits. Both Israel and Egypt claim it as their own.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA THE TOP PRIORITY FOR THE JNF By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 12 (JTA) — "The Galilee is top priority with us," says Moshe Rivlin, chairman of the Jewish National Fund. "We have undertaken some really huge projects there over recent years. But we have to adjust the pace of our development efforts to the pace of the country as a whole, and that means economic problems slowing us down."

Rivlin noted that part of the JNF's purpose is to establish Jewish ownership over Galilee lands wherever possible. But he was emphatic in dismissing any anti-Arab connotation. Land was sometimes purchased from Arab owners, always with strict legal propriety, he said.

Sometimes there were land-exchanges between the JNF and local owners; a tract in one location in return for a similar tract somewhere else. Otherwise the JNF worked on Jewish-owned land or State lands which were not in the possession of anyone.

The chairman stressed, too, that much of JNF's forestry and road-building work in the Galilee was directly beneficial — and much appreciated — by Arab Galileans as well as Jews.

Rivlin termed much of the JNF work in the hilly, stony Galilee "land creation." Each year, he said, the JNF readies some 7,000 dunams of land for settlement, and another 6,000 dunams are planted as forest-land. "For Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi alone," Rivlin says, "we recently reclaimed 1,000 dunams of land that is now lush farm soil."

Ringed By A Belt Of Green

The forestry work is always planned with recreation and tourism in mind. Thus, said Rivlin, some of the Galilee development towns are now ringed by a belt of green "which has literally changed the quality of life in these places."

Among the major longer-term tourism schemes is a development of the north-eastern banks of the Sea of Galilee, to be carried out in conjunction with government ministries and with the kibbutzim and moshavim of the area.

Some infrastructure exists there already: the JNF's Jordan Park, a scenic site on the banks of the river north of the Sea of Galilee — one of Israel's beauty spots since time immemorial; Kibbutz Ein Gev with its cultural center, restaurant and camping grounds; and Kibbutz Haon with its ostrich farms, open to visitors. Rivlin says this region could grow into a major tourism center for Israeli and foreign visitors.

Focus Is On The Mitzpim

The JNF's heavier work, laying the groundwork (literally) for and blazing the paths (literally) to new settlements, has focussed for some years now in the Galilee on the mitzpm or hilltop settlements which began to go up in the mid-seventies. To date there are about 40 of these dotted around the entire region.

Their locations make the roadbuilding particularly difficult and expensive, since it usually involves blasting through rocky terrain and laying out virgin paths upon which the roads are subsequently paved. Rivlin notes that much of the road-building budget comes from JNF's own funds, not from the government, even though this road-building is plainly a national need.

The mitzpm have had varying success. Some, says Rivlin, are already flourishing. Others have good prospects. But some are faltering and their future is not secure. The JNF does not abandon the fledgling settlements once its land-preparation work is done, but retains close ties, sometimes stepping in later to purchase or develop adjacent lands to help the mitzpeh take root and expand.

Rivlin emphasizes the success of the scheme where-by specific areas of the Galilee have been linked to JNF communities abroad. Thus, the Segev area of settlements and industrial enterprises is tied to JNF Australia; Tsalmon to the east is tied to Canada; the area around Golani Junction to South Africa; and the area north of Migdal Haemek to Great Britain.

The Australians in particular are displaying intense interest and involvement in every facet of the JNF's work in their region.

Issue Of Arab Vandalism

Rivlin says the issue of Arab vandalism against JNF forests and facilities in the Galilee "must be seen in its proper proportions." The miscreants are few in number, and the damage they do, though irksome and an occasion locally devastating, is not widespread.

He notes that the phenomenon is certainly not new. Back in the 1936-39 disturbances, the JNF was singled out for attack.

Rivlin says that for every misguided young nationalist who smashes a JNF commemorative plaque in a forest, there are hundreds of Arab Galileans who enjoy weekend and holiday visits to the forests. "They are among our most satisfied customers," he says.

Of late, Arab local authorities in the Galilee have been seeking to raise money abroad — to plant trees. "It just shows how successful our work is," says Rivlin.

NEW YORK LAW AIDS JEWISH STUDENTS

NEW YORK, Aug. 12 (JTA) — Students in religious schools in New York City, including those in Jewish day schools, will get up to five extra days of bus transportation annually, on days when public schools are closed, under a measure signed into law by Gov. Mario Cuomo.

The new law, which was sponsored in the Assembly by Assemblyman Arthur Kremer (D. Nassau) and in the Senate by Sen. James Donovan (R. Utica), was supported by the Agudath Israel Commission on Law and Social Action and the New York State Catholic Conference, according to Kremer.

"The law allows Catholic, Hebrew and other private schools to have their students brought to school by bus even when their schedules differ from the public schools," Kramer said, adding that this enabled "the non-public schools to follow their own calendars and meet their special needs."

He said the new law ended the need for the non-public schools to arrange "costly alternate arrangements for students who are too young or unable to take public transportation."

The law requires New York city school districts to provide bus transportation for non-public school pupils for up to five alternate days which must be picked in advance by officials of the non-public schools.

Days must be limited to the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after Labor Day, Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and the week between Christmas and New Year's days. It will become effective May 1, 1986 to allow officials to plan for the school year starting in September 1986.