

**RABIN DEFENDS ROLE OF IDF IN QUELLING RIOTS IN THE TERRITORIES**

By Gil Sedan

RAMALLAH, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin strongly defended the intervention of the Israel Defense Force to quell disturbances that have swept the administered territories for the past week.

At a press conference in this West Bank Arab city Wednesday, Rabin denied the IDF was using an "iron fist" and said Israel has no intention whatever of changing its policies in the territories. He said the security forces would continue to do their utmost to maintain law and order. He said their restraint contributed to the relative calm of the past two days.

Rabin reiterated his charge that terrorist elements were behind the unrest because they deliberately sought to disrupt the tranquility in the region and undermine moderate Palestinians and the efforts of Jordan to help the local populace.

The week of violence erupted on December 4 at Bir Zeit University, near Ramallah, where the IDF and border police opened fire on rioters, killing two 22-year-old students. Two more Palestinian youths, both minors, have been killed during rock-throwing melees and about a score have been wounded. Israeli military personnel and civilians have also been injured, mainly by rocks.

"The decision (by the IDF) to intervene was the correct one," Rabin said. Asked if his "iron fist" policy did not contribute to the unrest, he replied, "I don't know of any iron and any fist."

PERES: NO JUSTIFICATION FOR NEW WEST BANK JEWISH SETTLEMENTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres declared Thursday that Jewish settlement activity in the administered territories is diverting funds from vital national needs. His remarks were condemned by Yoram Aridor, chairman of the Herut Party Secretariat.

Speaking during a visit to Kiryat Bialik near Haifa, Peres said there was no justification for new settlements at a time when the State lacks funds for education, defense and welfare. Aridor countered that Peres and other Labor Party leaders are obliged to honor the Labor-Likud coalition agreement which stipulated that new settlements would be established.

Peres noted that when the agreement was signed in 1984, Labor was not aware of the huge economic problems the country faced.

Aridor also reacted angrily to earlier statements by Peres that settlements were an obstacle to peace. "By our judgement, the settlements are not a problem of the Foreign Ministry but rather part of our internal policy," he said. He charged that statements like Peres' invited outside pressure on Israel.

ISRAEL ESTABLISHES FIRST FULL-FLEDGED MISSION IN GREECE

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Israel established its first full-fledged diplomatic mission in Greece Tuesday, headed by Moshe Gilboa, a senior Foreign Ministry official from Jerusalem with the rank of Ambassador.

Gilboa, 56, presented his credentials to Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias at a private meeting which lasted 30 minutes instead of the 10 minutes assigned by protocol to such formalities.

Gilboa seemed more than pleased when he emerged. While he declined to say anything about his talk with Papoulias, he expressed cautious optimism over the warming of relations between the two countries.

Greece has never extended de jure recognition to Israel. For that reason, the Israeli envoy presented his letter of accreditation to the Foreign Minister rather than to the President.

Greece, moreover, has taken a consistently pro-Arab stand in the Middle East conflict and has, in fact, refused to go along with its European Economic Community (EEC) partners' decision to impose sanctions against Syria for its involvement in recent international terrorist acts.

A Substantial Development

The upgrading of Israel's representation in Athens from Consular level to diplomatic mission, coupled with other recent manifestations of Greek-Israeli cooperation represents a substantial advance in their relations.

Gilboa in fact had cause to be pleased with the circumstances surrounding his meeting with Papoulias. For one thing, his arrival in Athens caught the Foreign Minister on the run. Papoulias had just returned from a three-week visit to the United States and West Germany and had to report to Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou Tuesday before leaving that evening for a week-long meeting of the EEC in Brussels.

Foreign Ministry officials suggested to the Israeli envoy that he present himself to the Deputy Foreign Minister to avoid waiting a week or more to see Papoulias. Gilboa refused. When Papoulias was advised of this, he immediately arranged to see the Israeli.

That was something of a precedent, for the new Egyptian Ambassador had been forced to wait a month to present his credentials to the President and the Chinese Ambassador waited three months. Papoulias' concurrence with the Israel's wishes was seen as significant.

Also regarded as significant was the fact that the two men met with no one present except Papoulias' translator.

Another indication that Greece seeks to improve its ties with Israel was the fact that the meeting took place only a day after the United Nations Security Council adopted an Arab-sponsored resolution condemning Israel for the

shooting deaths of two Palestinian students at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank on December 4. Asked by reporters if Papoulas had referred to the incident, Gilboa shook his head. Observers here suggested that the courtesies extended to the Israeli representative stemmed from the fact that he heads the Foreign Ministry's World Jewish Affairs Division in Jerusalem and is therefore quite close to American Jewish leaders. The Greek government is very sensitive to American opinion.

The establishment of the Israeli mission here followed an exchange of visits between the Tourism Ministers of both countries which resulted in agreement to launch a joint Greek-Israeli advertising and promotion campaign to attract American tourists. The agreement was finalized in Jerusalem last month.

In addition, a delegation of Greek agronomists, headed by George Drys, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture in Athens, is leaving this week on a visit to Israel to discuss agricultural problems and possible cooperation. They are returning the visit to Greece last June of the Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture, Meir Ben-Meir.

SOVIET JEWRY ACTIVIST GROUPS SHOCKED OVER DEATH OF MARCHENKO

LONDON, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- International Human Rights Day was marked here Wednesday by protests against continued Soviet persecution of dissidents and the continuing difficulties refusniks face in trying to obtain exit visas.

The temperature of the protests was raised by reports that one of the best known Soviet political dissidents, Anatoly Marchenko, had died in the notorious Chistopol prison in the Tartar Republic while serving a 10-year term for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." He was 48 years old.

His Jewish wife, Larissa Bogoraz, whom he met while both were serving internal exile terms in Siberia, told reporters in Moscow that she had received a telegram Tuesday from the prison warden saying that her husband had died in a hospital. The telegram gave no date nor cause of death. On November 21, Bogoraz was summoned by security police and told to apply for the family to emigrate. She and Marchenko have a 12-year-old son, Pavel.

Bogoraz said the last letter she received from her husband was dated November 28, asking that she send a food parcel. The request indicated that Marchenko has abandoned a hunger strike he began August 4 to protest his treatment in prison, where Anatoly Shcharansky had also been incarcerated. Two weeks ago Bogoraz said a KGB officer told her that her husband was "feeling wonderful." She added that she had heard the authorities were force-feeding him.

Spent Total Of 20 Years In Prisons

Marchenko, a Ukrainian non-Jew, had spent a total of 20 years in Soviet prisons since first being arrested in 1960. Following his first six-year incarceration, he wrote "My Testimony," a panoramic description of Soviet prison life which became a best-seller in the West.

In 1968, during one of his periods out of prison, he spoke up in defense of a group of Soviet youths who had been arrested for protesting against the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia.

In 1981, having spent 15 years in prisons and labor camps, Marchenko was given a 10-year sentence for anti-Soviet agitation. It resulted from his membership in the Helsinki monitoring group, established to record Soviet compliance with the Helsinki human rights agreements.

Shcharansky and Yuri Orlov were his colleagues in the Helsinki monitoring group. Both have been permitted to emigrate after lengthy terms in captivity.

Marchenko's death leaves Nobel Laureate Andrei Sakharov as the last prominent human rights fighter still visibly victimized by the Soviet authorities. However, many lesser known activists are fast coming to the fore.

Some 26 Jewish refusniks are currently in prison or labor camps; 25 more have served time on charges of "slander" or malicious hooliganism; and some 10,000 others undergoing various forms of pressure still wait for exit visas.

Tribute To Marchenko

(In New York City, two Soviet Jewry groups paid tribute to Marchenko. The National Conference on Soviet Jewry said that he was "an inspiration to all freedom-loving people. He was a foremost activist for human dignity and freedom. To his last breath, he protested the Soviet assault on human rights." The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry said that Marchenko was "one of the USSR's leading activists His death came after numerous persecutions which he protested by hunger strikes.")

SARID HOSPITALIZED AFTER SUFFERING A HEART ATTACK

JERUSALEM, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- MK Yossi Sarid suffered a heart attack in the Knesset Wednesday night and was taken to Hadassah Hospital where he was reported Thursday to be resting comfortably.

Sarid, 45, a Knesset member for the Citizens Rights Movement (CRM) and an outspoken champion of civil rights and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians, was stricken outside the plenary chamber where he had just presented a motion to abolish censorship of plays and films.

The Knesset physician administered first aid until the arrival within minutes of an ambulance with special cardiac treatment equipment. Sarid did not lose consciousness but was in considerable pain.

ADL PRAISES SUPPORTIVE ACTION IN ARGENTINA FOR JEWISH AUTHOR WHO RECEIVED TELEPHONE DEATH THREATS

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith Thursday praised the prompt and supportive public reaction in Argentina for Isidoro Blaisten, a prize-winning Argentine author, who received telephone death threats.

According to Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of ADL's Latin American Affairs Department, the Argentine government acted quickly to guard Blaisten's home and a group of prestigious Argentine writers, artists and other intellectuals called on the Ministry of Interior to investigate subversive groups.

Blaisten, 53, received the telephone threats from persons calling themselves members of the "Argentine Nazi Force" who warned him he would be killed within 10 days because he is Jewish.

Rosenthal said that the public outcry and prompt action by government officials were in marked contrast to the general silence and indifference in the face of anti-Semitism during the period of military rule. He added, however, that "the persistence of Nazism and anti-Semitism in Argentina is cause for concern."

Blaisten secretly fled to Israel late last month after consulting with leaders of the Argentine Jewish community. In an exclusive interview with the Argentine daily La Razon, from the village of Mitzpe Ramon in Israel, Blaisten thanked the Argentine government for having guarded his home and "for having saved my life."

Dr. David Goldberg, president of DAIA, the Jewish community's representative body, called the threats another example of an increasing number of anti-Semitic actions by sectors attempting to destabilize democracy in Argentina.

Blaisten was the recipient of the 1974 Municipality of Buenos Aires literary prize and the 1983 National Literature Award. His works include "La Felicidad" (Happiness - 1969), "La Salvacion" (Salvation - 1972), "Dublin al Sur" (Dublin to the South - 1980), and "Cerrado por Melancolia" (Closed Due to Melancholy - 1981).

MEESE: ISRAELI-U.S. SHARED INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES LED TO COLLABORATION IN THE SALE OF ARMS TO IRAN

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, addressing more than 700 lawyers here Wednesday night, stressed that Israel and the United States share the same interests and long term objectives which led to their collaboration in the sale of arms to Iran.

"Israel has taken a long view in looking at this and has taken with us a strategic approach of which Iran is a very important piece," Meese said at the Proskauer Award Dinner of the UJA-Federation Lawyers Division which seeks to raise \$7 million for the 1987 campaign.

"We share with Israel the same objective and interests as far as that region of the world is concerned," Meese said. He said the Reagan Administration's objective was "to influence Iran to rejoin the family of responsible nations, rather than plunge into an abyss and a continuation of the conduct we have seen in the past."

Meese added, "because we share the same interests, this Administration is committed irrevocably to the safety and security of Israel. Whatever steps we take in that region will always have in mind the impact of those steps upon that nation."

The Attorney General maintained that had the arms sales been completed they would have amounted to only "one-tenth of one percent of the arms that are currently being supplied to Iran by other countries" and that Iranian contacts had offered to work for the release of American hostages held in Lebanon.

Defends Reagan's Handling Of The Crisis

Meese strongly defended President Reagan's handling of the crisis precipitated by the arms sales and the disclosure that proceeds from it were diverted to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua. "This was not an issue that could be allowed to fester, be concealed, appear to the American public that it was covered up. The President has taken quick, positive firm steps to deal with this problem," he said.

At a press conference following his speech, Meese referred to Israel's own investigation into the affair. "Israel is as determined as we are to get the facts out and to acknowledge exactly what their role is," he said.

More than \$4 million was pledged at the Award Dinner, a record for that event according to Stephen Axinn, chairman of the Lawyers Division. Mendes Hershman received the Proskauer Award, named in honor of the late Judge Joseph Proskauer who helped open the doors for Jews in the legal profession in New York.

WALDHEIM TO VISIT JAPAN AT THE INVITATION OF EMPEROR HIROHITO By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- The diplomatic isolation that has dogged President Kurt Waldheim as a result of the exposure of his Nazi past during last summer's election campaign, may have ended. The daily Neue Kronenzeitung reported Thursday that he will visit Japan in the near future, at the invitation of Emperor Hirohito.

Waldheim, who won the election last July 8 despite evidence that he abetted atrocities while serving as a Wehrmacht intelligence officer in the Balkans during World War II, had so far received none of the invitations to visit abroad that normally go to a chief of state. Invitations extended to his predecessor, which he might have honored, were withdrawn.

His isolation was broken briefly during the Helsinki follow-up Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which was held in Vienna. The Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union, West Germany, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland and Cyprus paid him courtesy calls. But other dignitaries, notably U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, made their visits to Vienna contingent on not meeting Waldheim either in official capacity or by chance.

Nevertheless, the President has drawn sympathy in some quarters. On Wednesday evening, the Arab embassies in Vienna gave a dinner in honor of Waldheim at which the Saudi Arabian Ambassador commiserated with him.

"The Arab world has observed the evil campaign against the Presidential candidate with disgust. It had not been directed against him as a person, but to discredit the credibility of the United Nations," the Saudi envoy said. Waldheim served two terms as UN Secretary General.

Another dinner in honor of Waldheim was organized several weeks ago by the Spanish Ambassador and Ambassadors from Latin American countries. The Mexican envoy, Cuevas Cancino, said on that occasion that he rejects "the slanderous campaign against Austria and her head of state with horror."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A far-reaching economic growth plan under preparation by the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Israel has won the support of Vice Premier and Labor Party leader Shimon Peres. The plan, formulated by Finance Minister Moshe Nissim (Likud-Liberal), is also expected to win the support of other Cabinet Ministers and Premier Yitzhak Shamir when it is brought before the Cabinet, possibly next Sunday. (See full report on the growth plan in the December 11 Daily News Bulletin.)

Jews and Non-Jews Join in Denouncing the 'Christian Identity' Movement as a Threat to a Pluralistic America

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (JTA) -- Leaders of major Protestant and Roman Catholic religious organizations joined a Jewish human relations agency in denouncing the "Christian Identity" movement as "a threat to a pluralistic and democratic America, a perversion of authentic religious values, and a source of bigotry, racism, and anti-Semitism."

At the same time the author of the first full-scale study of "Christian Identity" warned that the movement posed "a special danger to Christians of good will because it claims to base its racist beliefs on the Bible, and makes sham connections between its bigoted, often violent ideas and the sincere religious concerns of many Christians."

Making these charges, at a news conference Thursday at the offices of the American Jewish Committee, were Leonard Zeskind, research director of the Center for Democratic Renewal and author of the just-published study, "The Christian Identity Movement"; The Rev. Patricia McClurg, first vice president, National Council of Churches; The Rev. J. Bryan Hehir, secretary, Department of Social Development and World Peace, U.S. Catholic Conference; Rabbi A. James Rudin, director of interreligious affairs, American Jewish Committee; the Rev. Lynn Clayton, chairman, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, and Dr. C. T. Vivian, chairman, Center for Democratic Renewal.

Theodore Ellenoff, AJC national president, chaired the conference.

The Center for Democratic Renewal is an Atlanta-based national organization that monitors racist and extremist groups and actions. Zeskind's study was published by the Division of Church and Society of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

Description Of The 'Christian Identity' Movement

Describing "Christian Identity," Zeskind said it was "not a single organization, but the name given to a theological and political movement undergirding the entire white supremacist movement, from the Aryan Nations and the Ku Klux Klan to the Posse Comitatus."

Known also as "Identity," "Kingdom Identity," and "Kingdom Message," continued Zeskind, the movement contends "that the people of Northern Europe -- white Anglo-Saxons -- are the Lost Tribes of Israel; the Jews are the children of Satan, and that black people and people of color are 'pre-Adamic' -- a lower form of species than white people."

One of the movement's "theological constructions," said Zeskind, is that Armageddon--the final battle between good and evil foretold in Revelation -- "will be a military battle in America's heartland between themselves and the forces of Satan." The movement uses this belief and related notions, said Zeskind, to promote and justify paramilitary training and the stockpiling of weapons.

"Christian Identity" also maintains, he said, "that the problems besetting the American people are the result of 'race mixing' and interreligious cooperation between Christians and Jews, which they call sins ... They also attack Christian Right Fundamentalists for their support of the State of Israel, and mainstream Christian clergy for being 'agents of Satan'."

"Identity" is composed, said Zeskind, "of hundreds of small groupings dotted across the map, not confined to any single region of the country. It includes self-defined ministries that consist of little more than tape and booklet sales, as well as ministers who have regular programs on AM radio stations all over the U.S., and still other leaders who have small, stable congregations in metropolitan areas like Los Angeles and Spokane."

"It has emerged as the primary religious and spiritual phenomenon of the far right and must not be dismissed as a marginal phenomenon. The U.S. has been undergoing a resurgence of bigotry under the guise of Christianity; this resurgence is a deep, ugly stain in our society which people of good will must obliterate."

'Pernicious Hate Movement'

A joint statement issued by Clayton, Hehir, McClurg, Rudin, and Vivian calls on all Americans "to join with us in publicly opposing this pernicious hate movement," adding "Because (Christian Identity) fears the scrutiny of an informed and alert public, we also urge that churches, synagogues, and schools undertake intensive courses of education about this movement, and that law enforcement officers, elected officials, and the media become more knowledgeable about 'Christian Identity.'"

"As concerned Christian and Jewish religious leaders," the statement said, "we are outraged by 'Christian Identity's' false and dangerous message, and out of our concern for moral and ethical values, we join together in condemning 'Christian Identity' in the strongest possible terms."

Clayton told the conference that "Placing prejudice in a thin cellophane wrapper of pseudo-Christianity cannot make a Christian. Rather, it intensifies prejudice's repulsiveness."

McClurg said, "The racism and hatred at the heart of the 'Christian Identity' movement is a disgrace to the Christian Church. Diversity in the world and church does cause some tension, yet God's spirit would have us be enriched by those differences."

Rudin stated, "'Christian Identity' is a cancer attacking the body of American society Armed with the facts about 'Christian Identity', I am confident that the American people will work together to eradicate this form of social, political, and religious pathology from our midst."

Vivian said, "We are dealing with an 18th century problem in the 20th century -- the ideological heresies of these hate groups, which keep recurring because we have not spoken out strongly enough about them. Hate often needs and uses religion as a base for its development, and we cannot make these heresies go away by ignoring them; they stem from the hate mentality of our society. We, the churches and synagogues, have not been aggressive enough in our teaching about these false ideologies, and we must be."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Israel's largest summer ulpan, held at the Rothberg School for Overseas Students of the Hebrew University had an enrollment this year of over 800 students from all over the world. The students included five Catholic priests from the Vatican's Pontifical Biblical Institute and five Catholic priests from Madrid as well as 20 theological students from West Germany.