

ISRAEL TAKES TOUGH MEASURES TO RESTORE ORDER TO THE TERRITORIES

By Gil Sedan and David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- Israel took tough measures Wednesday to maintain order and security in the administered territories and made clear it would not be deterred by criticism from abroad or concerns about its world image.

The Israel Defense Force and border police were engaged in a massive dragnet aimed at arresting activists and their ringleaders, held responsible for the worst wave of violence to sweep the territories in 20 years. Scores of alleged troublemakers have already been taken into custody.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed Wednesday that Israel would "fight united with all our strength against any group seeking to undermine our full control over Judaea, Samaria and Gaza."

His warning that authorities would resort to administrative arrests and expulsions from the territories, if necessary, to restore order apparently had the intended impact on the Palestinian population.

For the first time in more than two weeks, shops were opened in the Gaza Strip, all roads were clear to traffic and some 30,000 Arab workers employed in Israel showed up for their jobs.

The only trouble spot was the Jabalya refugee camp, where a curfew was imposed Wednesday morning and residents were barred from leaving.

The measures came in response to an outburst of violence Tuesday following rumors that a young Palestinian from the camp had died at Beersheba hospital from wounds he received in an earlier clash with Israeli troops.

The rumors were false. Hospital officials reported that the youth's condition was improved.

Rabin Means Business

The new calm in the territories was attributed in part to winter storms that have raked the area for the past few days. But mainly the residents appeared to understand that Defense Minister Rabin "meant business" when he told the Knesset Wednesday that the IDF and border police are permitted to use live ammunition in self-defense, when other methods of riot control have failed.

The IDF has been, in fact, under strict orders to exercise maximum restraint with respect to the use of lethal weapons. Nevertheless, Rabin stressed that Israel would demonstrate "by word and by deed," to the population of the areas, to the Arab states and to the international community that neither war, the threat of war, nor violence will achieve anything.

"On the contrary," he said, "the continuation of this violence will bring only more grief and pain to the instigators and participants. Gaza and Hebron, Ramallah and Nablus -- they will not become Beirut or Sidon or Tyre," Rabin said, referring to the Lebanese cities where near-chaos has reigned for years.

Rabin promised that Israel would do its utmost to put an end to the disturbances, despite negative reaction in the world. He acknowledged

that media coverage of the unrest has done no good to Israel's image abroad. But he hoped that would be "transient" and stressed that most nations understood Israel's primary duty was to restore law and order.

Casualty Figures Reported

Rabin also reported casualty figures to date. He said 21 Palestinians had been killed and 158 wounded since the disturbances began on Dec. 9. On the Israeli side, 31 IDF soldiers and border police and 19 civilians have been injured.

Rabin appears to have the full support of the government. The Inner Cabinet, the government's top policy-making body, reviewed the situation Wednesday and emerged unanimous in support of the IDF's efforts to restore order. The 10 ministers, split evenly between Likud and Labor, were briefed by Gen. Dan Shomron, the IDF chief of staff, and other senior officers.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir praised the security forces for their handling of the situation so far and said they should continue to act in a "similar way."

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, meanwhile, said Wednesday that the present situation should bring renewed efforts to advance the peace process. Speaking at a conference on economic ties between the United States and Israel, he observed that Israel is well aware how the United States believes the current situation should be handled.

"There is no status quo solution to the Mideast. An effective and ongoing peace process is essential," Pickering said. He also expressed concern over Egypt's strong condemnation of Israel, both in Cairo and at the United Nations.

"We have been in close touch with the governments involved about our serious concern about what's happening, and we will continue to stay in touch," he said.

ISRAEL DISAPPOINTED BY U.S. VOTE ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- Israeli diplomats at the United Nations expressed disappointment Wednesday over the U.S. decision to abstain from voting on a Security Council resolution, adopted Tuesday night, deploring Israel's handling of the disturbances in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The vote in the 15-member Security Council was 14 in favor with no objections. Israeli diplomats said they regretted that the United States did not veto this "one-sided and unbalanced resolution," by voting against it. The United States is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council and as such enjoys veto power over any resolution in the council.

The resolution adopted Tuesday night states that the Security Council "strongly deplors those policies and practices of Israel, the occupying power, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, in particular the opening of fire by the Israeli army, resulting in the killing and wounding of defenseless Palestinian civilians."

The resolution calls on Israel to adhere to the 1949 Geneva convention on conduct of an occupying power "and to desist forthwith from its policies and practices that are in violation of the provisions of the convention."

It also requests that the secretary general of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar, "examine the present situation in the occupied territories by all means available to him, as well as submit a report no later than January 1988" on how to ensure the safety of the Palestinians in the territories.

Language Softened

In order to avoid an American veto of the resolution, the Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization agreed to softer language, dropping their original request that Israel be "condemned" and that the Security Council dispatch a special U.N. representative to the territories to investigate the situation.

The PLO's attempts to stiffen the resolution with sharper language resulted in at least two postponements of the Security Council vote.

Some diplomats suggested that the PLO was interested at one point in a U.S. veto as a way of demonstrating a close association between Israel's policies and Washington.

Ambassador Yohanan Bein, Israel's deputy permanent representative, said, in an address to the Security Council before the vote Tuesday night, that the resolution does not constitute "a reasonable and balanced attempt to address the issue at hand."

He charged that the riots were instigated by the PLO in order to "prolong and justify a one-sided political debate" against Israel.

Bein substituted for Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu, who is in Israel for a three-week visit.

'Generalized Criticism'

Herbert Okun, representing the United States in the absence of Ambassador Vernon Walters, told the Security Council that the United States was abstaining on the resolution, rather than voting for it, because it contained "generalized criticism of Israeli policies and practices."

He also noted that the resolution ignored provocations to Israel's security forces. Israeli diplomats contended that the resolution completely ignored Israeli victims of terror in the territories.

The United States abstained, in December 1986, on a Security Council resolution deploring Israel for shooting civilians at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank. It also abstained in September 1985, when the Security Council censured Israel for its raid on the PLO headquarter in Tunisia.

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry issued a strongly worded statement Wednesday, in response to the U.S. abstention and the concern expressed by President Reagan over the unrest in the territories.

"There is neither a foundation, nor justification to blame Israel in connection with the recent difficult and regrettable events in Judea, Samaria and Gaza," the Foreign Ministry said.

"Israel rejects any attempt to blame her and the instigators of the unrest equally," the statement read, adding that Israel hopes that the United States will take special care not to adopt such views which would be interpreted by "extremist and violent elements" as a demonstration of support.

Israel will continue to bear its responsibility

toward the Jewish and Arab residents, to restore order, and to aim toward mutual understanding, a dialogue and peace with its neighbors, the statement concluded.

RABIN SAYS SECURITY FORCES MAY SHOOT 'TO HIT' IF NECESSARY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- Israeli security forces will be permitted to fire live ammunition "to hit" if non-lethal methods cannot quell riots by Palestinians and "the troops are endangered," Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset Wednesday.

Rabin listed the standing orders that apply to the Israel Defense Force and other security forces. He said the army has already concentrated large forces in the administered territories.

He said strong detachments will be sent to trouble spots at the first sign of violence to "nip it in the bud." The troops will warn demonstrators to disperse and will allow them to disperse voluntarily.

Failing that, tear gas and rubber bullets will be used. If they are ineffective, warning shots will be fired into the air.

"If the troops are endangered in the course of performing their duties," said Rabin, "they are permitted to shoot to hit the leaders (of the demonstrations) and at persons throwing flammable bottles (gasoline bombs). As far as possible, they should shoot at their feet."

Rabin said there is "no limitation" on the military command's resort to expulsion orders and administrative arrests against instigators of riots and ringleaders, provided due judicial processes are followed.

He said the officers commanding the southern and central sectors are empowered to impose local curfews for as long as they are deemed necessary. The army will have greater freedom to shut down "hotbeds of unrest" such as certain Arab colleges and high schools, the defense minister said.

ISRAEL URGES ITS ARAB POPULATION NOT TO BE DRAWN INTO THE VIOLENCE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin appealed to Israel's 750,000 Arab citizens Wednesday not to be drawn into violence and disregard for the law by agitators and extremists.

Addressing them in a Knesset speech, Rabin declared, "For a generation you have stood with honor in the ongoing test of loyalty to the state. You have been part of us. . . Remain faithful now, and enjoy a peaceful life."

Rabin's speech, intended both to caution and reassure the Arab population, had the opposite effect on several Arab Knesset members. When he warned the Palestinians, "in the distant past you underwent a tragedy, it is best for you and for us too that you not allow it to be repeated," the Arab M.K.s rose and shouted in protest.

Tawfik Toubi, of the Rakah Communist Party, accused Rabin of "threatening us with expulsion. . . But that will never be," he exclaimed. "We are legally entitled to protest the crimes being committed in the occupied areas."

A continuing uproar in the chamber led to the removal of Knesset member Mohammed Miari of the Progressive List for Peace.

ISRAEL, JEWISH LEADERS DISTRESSED OVER U.S. STATEMENTS ON THE UNREST JTA Staff Report

Dec. 23 (JTA) -- Israeli officials and American Jewish leaders expressed their distress Wednesday over statements made this week by the U.S. State Department and the White House about Israel's handling of the Arab violence in the administered territories.

Of particular concern were a State Department warning to American citizens visiting East Jerusalem and a White House statement which the officials see as condemning the Palestinian rioters and the Israeli security forces in equal measure.

"There is no foundation or justification for blaming Israel," Israel's Foreign Ministry said in a statement referring to White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater's comment Tuesday that "both sides share responsibility for this violence."

The Foreign Ministry said Israel hopes that the United States "will be particularly careful not to adopt positions which might be interpreted as support for extremists elements who encourage violence."

Protests over the warning to tourists were lodged with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering here Wednesday by Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein.

In Washington, the State Department said Tuesday that it had only reiterated the travel advisory, in effect since March 1982, warning American citizens about traveling in the administered territories. Department spokesperson Phyllis Oakley said there were "no thoughts" of upgrading the advisory.

'Unnecessary And Untimely'

But in Israel, Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir called the State Department warning "unnecessary and untimely." He maintained that Israel is safer than many other places in the world, including the United States.

Sharir spoke at the Allenby Bridge, where a group of Christian pilgrims entered Israel from Jordan Wednesday. He said tourists come to Israel in large numbers, and insisted that there have been no tourist cancellations as a result of the unrest.

In New York, leaders of two major Jewish organizations also rejected Fitzwater's contention that Israel "shares a responsibility" for the violence.

In a statement on behalf of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Morris Abram said that "any attempt to equate those who are causing the violence with those who are seeking to stop it is unacceptable."

Abram, who chairs the conference, said that Israeli troops and police are using live ammunition only as a last resort. "No police force in the world and no army in the world is barred from such acts of self-defense," he said.

Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International, echoed Abram's statement, saying "Washington should learn to tell the difference between those who want to burn the house down (the rioters) and those who are seeking to protect it (Israeli forces)."

In Washington, a State Department official on Wednesday rejected criticism that the United States is unfairly equating Palestinian violence with Israeli counterviolence.

"There is certainly room for restraint on both sides," the official said. Objecting speci-

fically to Israel's use of lethal force and live ammunition in quelling riots, the official said, "I don't think the blame lies in any one quarter."

(Contributing to this report were correspondents Gil Sedan in Jerusalem, Andrew Silow Carroll in New York and Howard Rosenberg in Washington.)

EUROPEANS RIP ANTI-RIOT MEASURES, BUT CANADIAN PREMIER SUPPORTIVE JTA Staff Report

Dec. 23 (JTA) -- Israel continued to come under sharp criticism from European leaders and church groups for measures it has taken to quell rioting by Palestinians in the administered territories.

Meanwhile, Premier Brian Mulroney of Canada emerged as one of the few, if not the only, major national leader to express understanding of Israel's situation. He said Tuesday night that Israel has exercised "visible restraint" and "political responsibility" in dealing with disturbances in the territories.

Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark had told Parliament Monday night that "Canada has informed the Israel government of its concern regarding the use of live ammunition and deplors the loss of life."

In Brussels, Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans communicated his government's "deep uneasiness" over the situation in the territories at a meeting Tuesday night with the Israeli ambassador to Belgium, Avi Primor.

Tindemans, who summoned the Israeli envoy to the Foreign Ministry, urged Israel to refrain "from doing anything that might harm its image" in the international community. He stressed that the Israeli security forces should not use firearms to contain demonstrations and called on Israel to observe the Geneva Convention with respect to the protection for civilian populations.

Primor, who only recently began work in Brussels, asked the European community to adopt a "more balanced" position if it wants to exert any political influence in the Middle East. He was referring to the pressure brought to bear on Israel by the 12-member states of the European Economic Community since the disturbances began in the territories more than two weeks ago.

In Geneva, the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation issued separate statements appealing to the Israeli government to make every effort to end oppressive measures and restore calm through reconciliation.

The World Council of Churches, an umbrella organization of Protestant denominations, addressed its statement to Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir. "As we have received shocking reports of the widespread violence that has produced the killing and injuring of scores of Palestinians in Gaza, the WCC expresses its deep concern about the violent events actually taking place there," the statement said.

It called on Israel to eschew the use of force and to "immediately undertake all necessary and effective measures for the cessation of violent actions against the civilian population of Gaza" and urged Israel to initiate political negotiations aimed at protecting the inhabitants of the occupied territories and "preventing a continuing cycle of violence."

(Contributing to this report were Yossi Lempkowitz in Brussels, Tamar Levy in Geneva and Michael Solomon in Montreal.)

1985 ROME AIRPORT GUNMAN IMPLICATES ABU NIDAL, SYRIA

By Ruth Gruber

ROME, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- The lone surviving gunman of the 1985 airport attack here that killed 16 people has claimed ties with terrorist leader Abu Nidal and that Syria was behind the mission.

In pre-trial testimony read at his trial Monday, 20-year-old gunman Ibrahim Mohammed Khaled said that the orders for the mission came from Damascus, and that Abu Nidal's Al-Fatah Revolutionary Council was based there.

Khaled also told investigators that he and his three companions, as well as the Palestinian commandos that carried out the simultaneous attack at Vienna's airport, had left for their missions from Syria.

They had been technically and ideologically trained for weeks and were given \$2,500 apiece, air tickets, maps and false passports, the testimony said. He also revealed information about hidden arms caches and organizers of terrorist attacks, including Abu Nidal.

Khaled's trial opened Dec. 15, almost two years after the Dec. 27, 1985 attack on the crowded El Al and TWA check-in counters at Fiumicino Airport here. A 90-second shootout ensued with security guards in which Khaled's companions died. Eighty-nine people were injured.

Courtroom Fortified

The trial is being held in a fortified courtroom in Rome's Rebibbia Prison. Abu Nidal and his right-hand man, Al Hamieda Rashid, are charged with Khaled for organizing the massacre and are being tried in absentia.

Khaled used his legal right to stay away from court during the second session Monday, but issued a statement read by his lawyer, Epifano Ales. In it, Khaled claimed Israeli security men were as guilty as he was for the massacre.

The court was adjourned until Jan. 15 amid concern by the prosecution that should Khaled continue to refuse to appear, he would not shed light on the Abu Nidal guerrilla group.

In an interview on Italy's state-run television last March, Khaled accused Israeli security guards of firing first on him and his fellow gunmen, sparking off the shootout in which the indictment says 280 shots were fired: 102 by the Palestinians, 62 by Israeli El Al security guards and 16 by Italian security men.

Hijacking Was Planned

"The order was to carry out a different mission," he said in the interview. "We were to commandeer a jetliner of the Israeli airline."

"I and a comrade who later fell in the shootout were going to the bar to have a drink. At that moment, an Israeli agent... pulled out a pistol and fired. So I opened my bag, took out my Kalachnikov and fired back. The Israelis fired first. We did not want to act inside the airport at all."

He added: "What happened is not my fault. I only did what any Palestinian boy would have done."

The indictment against Khaled, however, cites ballistics reports that the four Palestinians did start the attack by hurling three Bulgarian-made hand grenades into the early morning crowd and then opening fire with Kalachnikov assault rifles, manufactured in Poland, Bulgaria and the

Soviet Union.

Authorities had hoped Khaled's courtroom testimony would be the centerpiece of the trial and the basis for the state's case.

In the statement read by his lawyer, Khaled described the Christmas massacre as an "unpardonable disaster" and "an action full of horror." He called on Israelis and Palestinians to "put down their damned arms" and negotiate a peace settlement.

"I don't have anything to expect from life. I have nothing. I want my death to arrive as soon as possible," Khaled's statement said. "Because ours was a suicide mission I don't intend to defend myself. I intended to die."

In a separate letter read by the court president, Khaled asked forgiveness from the families of the victims, saying he feared that if he appeared in court he would inflict more pain on them.

"I hope that the light of god touches also my Palestinian people, who suffer and mourn their dead -- women, elderly, children," his emotional letter, written in Italian, said.

"May the Israeli and Palestinian people put down their damned arms and sit together at a peace table," said the letter, which told of his upbringing in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon that he described as cruel and hopeless.

SENATE CONFIRMS APPOINTMENT OF JEWISH ENVOY TO VIENNA

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (JTA) -- The Senate on Tuesday confirmed Henry Grunwald to be U.S. ambassador to Austria. He was confirmed by voice vote without debate.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) called the confirmation of Grunwald, who is Jewish, "one more goody" for President Reagan.

Byrd was referring to Reagan's many recent nominations, many of which, including those for posts in Yemen and Iraq, were not acted on before the Senate adjourned Tuesday.

The vote on Grunwald came after Byrd had delivered the traditional end-of-session call to Reagan. The House and Senate adjourned Tuesday night, ending the first session of the 100th Congress. The next session begins in January.

Grunwald, who resigned in August as editor in chief of Time Inc., said in a telephone interview Wednesday that he could not comment on his appointment "until after I have taken up my post in Vienna."

He did not give a date when Austrian President Kurt Waldheim would receive his credentials, but Grunwald said he is "planning to leave the United States for Vienna in the middle of January."

Grunwald, 65, was born in Austria, and left Vienna in 1940 to flee the Nazis.

His appointment comes at a time when U.S. relations with Austria are strained over Washington's decision to bar Waldheim from the United States in the wake of charges linking the Austrian president to atrocities committed in the Balkans during World War II.

There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated Friday, December 25, 1987, because of the postal holiday.