

VOL. 66 - 71st YEAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1988

NO. 3

**POPE JOHN PAUL II MAY MEET
WITH WALDHEIM IN AUSTRIA**By Andrew Silow Carroll
and Andrew Muchin

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II will meet with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim during a visit to Austria scheduled for June 23 to 27, according to unconfirmed news reports from the Vatican Tuesday.

The pope also will meet, on June 24, with Austrian Jewish leaders who protested his controversial audience at the Vatican with Waldheim last summer, the reports said.

Arrangements for the visit were apparently made during Waldheim's audience at the Vatican last June. John Paul II first visited Austria as pope in 1983.

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) and director of international relations for the American Jewish Committee, said Tuesday evening that a papal meeting with Waldheim is not certain, because Waldheim may face pressure to resign from office before June.

An international commission of historians is studying Waldheim's activities as a lieutenant in the German Army during World War II, when he allegedly was involved in deportations of Greek Jews to Auschwitz, among other crimes.

Waldheim has repeatedly denied that he was involved in war crimes.

"If Waldheim still remains in office, then clearly the Austrian government would expect (the pope) to meet with him," Tannenbaum said.

The Jewish leader said IJCIC will meet Thursday to discuss alternative proposals to a papal-Waldheim meeting, which the group will transmit to Vatican officials.

"We don't want a repetition of the tumultuous events of the summer," he said.

Regarding the upcoming visit, Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, suggested in a statement that the pope use the visit to "give public expression to his views on the Holocaust and its dreadful and continuing lessons to all mankind."

In a separate statement, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said he hoped the pope would "not repeat the overly lavish praise for Mr. Waldheim when they met last summer, and which appeared to absolve the former U.N. official of the charges that have been made against him."

Waldheim is a former secretary general of the United Nations.

Schindler called for a meeting of Austrian Catholic clergy to discuss anti-Semitism. He also said the "best suggestion of all" would be for Waldheim to resign the presidency before the pope arrives, and thus "spare the Austrian people and the pope himself the embarrassment of another meeting" with Waldheim.

In April, the U.S. Justice Department formally barred Waldheim from visiting the United States as a private citizen, saying it had sufficient evidence to suspect him of involvement in Nazi war crimes.

**ARABS WILL URGE SECURITY COUNCIL
TO BLOCK DEPORTATIONS FROM ISRAEL**

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Representatives of Arab states here are circulating a draft Security Council resolution demanding that Israel refrain from deporting any Palestinians from the administered territories, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned Tuesday.

The Security Council was expected to meet Tuesday night or Wednesday morning to discuss the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where violent disturbances have broken out in recent weeks.

The Security Council meeting was requested by Jordan. But according to sources here, the main force behind the request was Egypt, the only Arab state to have a peace treaty with Israel.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Benjamin Netanyahu, cut short his vacation in Israel and is enroute to New York to attend the session.

The draft resolution, backed by the Arabs and the Palestine Liberation Organization, calls on Israel to abide by the Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, which protects the rights of civilians in time of war.

It is intended to bring the weight of the Security Council to bear on Israel to rescind deportation orders issued Sunday against nine Palestinian activists alleged to have been ring-leaders in the disturbances, which began Dec. 9 and have continued sporadically ever since.

The resolution would be the second aimed against Israel since Dec. 22, when the Security Council voted 14-0 for a resolution strongly deploring Israel's handling of riots in the territories. The United States, which has the power to veto any Security Council resolution, chose to abstain from voting.

The Dec. 22 resolution also called on Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar to send an emissary to Israel to examine conditions in the territories and to study prospects for implementing the resolution's recommendations.

The Israeli newspaper Yediot Achronot reported Tuesday that the envoy, Marrack Goulding, is expected to arrive in Israel at the end of this week. Goulding is U.N. undersecretary for Middle East affairs.

**AS VIOLENCE FLARES IN GAZA, ARABS
PLAN CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE CAMPAIGN**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- The Gaza Strip, quiet for the past few days, erupted with new violence Tuesday, resulting in the death of a Palestinian in Khan Yunis, where Israeli soldiers battled stone-throwing youths.

It was the second Palestinian fatality since Sunday at the hands of Israeli security forces, and passions seethed throughout the territories.

In addition, Israel is faced with an Arab civil disobedience campaign being organized by two prominent Palestinians in East Jerusalem. As a harbinger of this latest move, groups of Arab women all over the West Bank demonstrated

Tuesday against the "suppressive measures" by the Israelis.

The Gaza Strip, where serious rioting broke out last Dec. 9 and continued unabated for nearly three weeks, was quiet Tuesday morning. But later in the day, IDF soldiers were attacked with rocks in Khan Yunis, in the southern end of the territory.

One soldier was struck in the face. The officer in charge opened fire to rescue his men who were surrounded. One of the stone-throwers was killed and seven were wounded.

News of the clash spread swiftly over the territory. Four IDF soldiers were slightly injured by rocks in Gaza. A resident of Gaza's Nasser neighborhood was wounded in an encounter with other soldiers.

South of Gaza, 10 Arab youths barricaded themselves in a mosque and stoned Israeli forces.

Regret Expressed

Military sources expressed regret over the loss of a life in Khan Yunis, but said that according to an initial investigation, the soldier who fired the fatal shot acted in accordance with regulations.

That was not the case Sunday, when a 25-year-old Palestinian woman, Haniye El-Zarawneh, was shot to death while hanging laundry on the roof of her home in the Al-Ram neighborhood, north of Jerusalem.

The soldier in that case, who was firing into the air as he chased stone-throwers into the courtyard of the Zarawneh family home, was suspended from duty along with his commanding officer for acting contrary to regulations.

The two deaths, less than 48 hours apart, may touch off a new round of violent disturbances in the territories, Israelis fear.

IDF Chief of Staff Gen. Dan Shomron told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday that each additional person killed in the territories ignites further tension. He said the security forces were under strict orders to exercise maximum restraint.

But the prospects of a civil disobedience campaign in the West Bank and Gaza Strip may in some ways be a greater ordeal for Israeli forces than violent confrontations.

The first reaction in official quarters was that the campaign would "simply not work," although the mere announcement of it was troubling.

Seniora Behind Initiative

The initiative was taken by Hanna Seniora, the widely respected editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic daily Al Fajr, and Mubarak Awad, founder and head of the Center for the Study of Non-Violence in East Jerusalem.

Awad, a Jerusalem-born American citizen, was recently ordered deported from Israel. But strong pressure from Washington prevailed upon the Israeli authorities not to implement the order.

Seniora told reporters Tuesday that the civil disobedience campaign could include refusal to pay taxes and boycotts of Israeli products and jobs in Israel. He said it could be described as a non-violent "civil rebellion... to send a message that the occupation cannot continue for very much longer."

Other possible participants in the campaign include Bir Zeit University Professor Sari Nusseibeh; the deposed mayor of Hebron, Mustafa Abdul Nabi Ntash; and lawyer Jonathan Kuttab.

Seniora said he and other public figures would hold a news conference Thursday to announce the initiative.

Meanwhile, Premier Yitzhak Shamir responded Tuesday to a cable from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak protesting Israel's behavior in the territories. Shamir blamed the unrest on terrorist organizations and charged that the Arab countries were perpetuating the poor conditions in the refugee camps deliberately.

He handed his message to the Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv, Mohammad Bassiouny. The envoy, emerging from his meeting with Shamir, told reporters "We are against killing, because there are a lot of ways to keep security, but not by the use of live bullets."

U.S. CONDEMNS DEPORTATIONS, SAYS IT IS NOT SOFTENING STANCE By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- The State Department on Tuesday termed Israel's deportations of Palestinians a violation of international law.

"We consider them a violation of that Fourth Geneva Convention," Redman said, referring to the 1949 treaty setting international standards for treating civilians in occupied areas.

The State Department has previously taken that position. In its February 1987 report on human rights practices, it stated, "The United States holds the view that Israel is an occupying power in these territories and, therefore, that its administration is subject to The Hague regulations of 1907 and the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention concerning the protection of civilian populations under military occupation."

Reacting to Tuesday's killing of a Palestinian in the Gaza Strip by Israeli soldiers, Redman said the United States "deeply regrets" the incident.

"People on both sides should pull back and consider the impact of confrontations, violence and the use of deadly force on the chances for a just and lasting peace in the region," he added.

In a separate briefing Tuesday, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater contested press reports Monday that the State Department has become less critical of Israel.

The New York Times and the Washington Post reported Tuesday that the State Department had "muted" its public criticism of Israel.

The papers apparently based their reports on Redman's decision not to deliver a lengthy statement in reaction to Israel's decision Sunday to deport nine Palestinians from the administered territories and the killing the same day of a Palestinian woman on the West Bank.

Fitzwater said Tuesday that Redman's statement "was misinterpreted a little bit, because the language was almost the same as it has been the previous days."

He reiterated the administration objections to deportations of Palestinians, as well as Israel's use of lethal force.

The State Department official said it is not necessary for the United States to publicly criticize Israel on a "daily basis."

In a separate development, Fitzwater announced that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak would meet with President Reagan in Washington on Jan. 28.

Mubarak, who last visited the United States in September 1985, will arrive in the United States Jan. 26 and will leave Jan. 30.

BRITISH ENVOY CREATES A STIR WITH REMARKS ON GAZA CONDITIONS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- A British diplomat who visited the Gaza Strip on Monday has created a stir here and in Israel by remarking that conditions in the territory are "appalling" and an "an affront to civilized values."

The remarks were made by David Mellor, minister of state for foreign affairs, who arrived in Israel on Sunday and took a "private" tour of the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Monday, before commencing his official visit that evening by meeting with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The British Foreign Office, which sent him on the trip, seemed embarrassed by Mellor's public description of conditions at the Jabalya refugee camp as "shocking and inhuman" and his harassment of an Israel Defense Force officer before television cameras.

Speaking to reporters in Gaza, Mellor said, "It is appalling that a few miles up the coast (in Israel) there is prosperity, and here there is misery on a scale that rivals anything anywhere in the world." He urged that "something has got to be done."

"The Israeli authorities cannot duck their responsibility to these people," Mellor said, referring to the Palestinians.

"It is shaming that money is flowing out of this area into Israel but money is not being put back in," he added.

Lead News Item

His harsh, outspoken criticism of Israel was a lead item Tuesday in British radio, television and newspaper reports. Pro-Israel members of Parliament, such as the Labor Party's Douglas Hoyle, plan to question Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe as to what extent Mellor's views reflect government thinking.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Tuesday, "It is not for us to comment on what Mr. Mellor says. We are not going to get into a public debate with the Israelis."

It was pointed out, nevertheless, that Mellor's remarks were in full accord with the foreign secretary's view that Israel's reputation was damaged by "repressive" actions in the territories.

Lord Immanuel Jakobovitz, chief rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth, said Monday night that Jews and Israelis all over the world were "agonizing over the situation no less than Mr. Mellor."

But Jakobovitz, in his first public statement since he was elevated to the House of Lords on Jan. 1, questioned whether Mellor had been fair or helpful in the way he described the problem confronting Israel in the territories.

Mellor, 38, moved to the Foreign Office after serving as minister of state at the Home Office, where, according to British observers, he showed a flair for publicity and a knack for antagonizing people.

Before leaving for Israel last week, he said on BBC radio that "the time is right for there to be an international conference, under the aegis of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, to try to thrash out, once and for all, the future of the occupied territories."

(Jerusalem correspondent David Landau contributed to this report.)

ISRAELIS SPLIT OVER WHETHER TO COOPERATE WITH U.N. INQUIRY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- The leaders of Israel's unity coalition government seem to be at odds over whether to cooperate with a special United Nations envoy due here this week to examine conditions in the administered territories, Yediot Achronot reported Tuesday.

The emissary, U.N. Undersecretary for Middle East Affairs Marrack Goulding, was dispatched to Israel by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in compliance with a Dec. 22 resolution of the Security Council that strongly deplored Israel's handling of recent disturbances in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and demanded an on-the-spot investigation.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres announced he would meet with Goulding to explain Israel's opposition to the resolution, adopted by a vote of 14-0 with the United States abstaining.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir said Monday he was undecided. But Likud sources have already assailed Peres for his willingness to cooperate with the U.N. envoy, which they claimed would "snowball" into further U.N. intervention in the territories.

Goulding is expected to visit the West Bank and Gaza Strip and have working meetings with Palestinian leaders, including Fayz Abu-Rahamal of Gaza; Hanna Seniora, an East Jerusalem newspaper editor; and Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, Yediot Achronot reported.

The paper said he would report back to Perez de Cuellar and may propose the appointment of a special U.N. supervisor for the administered territories.

According to Yediot Achronot, however, the secretary general did not release a statement at the United Nations on Goulding's trip, indicating he preferred not to give it too much public attention.

KNESSET MEMBER IS TARGET OF LATEST LETTER BOMB

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Police warned the public again Tuesday not to open suspicious looking mail after a Knesset member reported receiving a letter bomb at his home here.

It was the 11th, or possibly 12th, such device to reach Israel since Dec. 30, when a letter bomb mailed from Istanbul injured two residents of Or Yehuda near Tel Aviv.

On the same date, postal workers detected nine other letter bombs before they were delivered. All were safely defused and the public was immediately alerted. Photos of the letter bombs appeared in the press and on television and manual mail sorting replaced mechanical sorting at post offices all over the country because the devices are more easily detected by hand.

Member of Knesset Menachem Porush of Agudat Yisrael told Israel Radio that he became suspicious of a large, white envelope with a stiff card inside while he and his secretary were opening his mail Tuesday. The envelope bore the name of N. Nissim and a return address in Istanbul.

According to Porush, his secretary opened it, but did not remove the card -- a Christmas greeting. The device did not explode. Police confirmed that it was similar to the earlier letter bombs, all of which were sent under the same

name and return address.

The police are also searching for a letter bomb reported a week ago by a Givatayim resident who said he thought it was junk mail and threw it into a trash can without opening the envelope.

The Israeli police are maintaining close contact with the Turkish authorities and Interpol, the international clearinghouse for information on criminals and criminal activity. They said the letter bombs received in Israel, the first since 1972, contain several grams of explosives, not enough to be lethal but sufficient to cause serious injuries to face or hands.

(Tel Aviv correspondent Hugh Orgel contributed to this report.)

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS' CHILDREN MULL OVER THE JEWISH FUTURE

By Susan Birnbaum

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- The International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors looked toward the future during a conference here last week that examined topics such as interfaith relations, the meaning of Israel, the implications of the Holocaust, anti-Semitism and assimilation.

More than 300 people, most of them children of Holocaust survivors and some from such far-flung places as Venezuela and Israel, came to the University of California at Los Angeles for three days to examine "Jewish Identity in the 21st Century: A Challenge for the Post-Holocaust Generation."

The conference was organized in cooperation with the Second Generation of Los Angeles.

"We are closer today to the 21st century than to the years of the Holocaust and we are at least as responsible for determining our future as we are for the remembrance of the past," explained Menachem Rosensaft of New York, founding chairman of the network.

Keynote speaker Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, professor of religion at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.J., brought the audience to its feet with his charge that commemoration of the Holocaust is becoming "a substitute religion. . . for Jews who find it easier to counter-punch on anti-Semitism so that they do not have to make the hard choices" about their own Jewishness.

He also cautioned Jews involved in discussing the Holocaust with the Vatican that the church "wants to live down this record during the Nazi era and much of the Jewish establishment has been playing along with it. . . Don't you dare negotiate about the Holocaust. It's not within your competence."

Catholic-Jewish relations were further discussed by a panel that included Tikkun magazine editor Michael Lerner. He criticized attempts by the Vatican to withhold recognition of Israel over political issues as "incredible hypocrisy."

"We Jews jumped from the burning building of Europe and unfortunately in jumping we landed on some Palestinians," he said, "and I think its incumbent on Israel to take away some of the hurts of the Palestinians. But I think it's incrediblechutzpah for the church to say this, because it was the church who set the fire."

In Lerner's view, the utterance of two mere sentences during the Holocaust would have exonerated the church: "It is an absolute imperative that Catholics save Jews"; and "Those Catholics who do not will be excommunicated."

Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, lamented that Israel has become too much the focus of Jewish identification for too many Jews. For example, he noted, when asked to name their leaders, Jews in Uruguay or Argentina invariably gave the names of Israeli government leaders. "And it is our own fault," he said.

Avraham Burg, adviser on Israeli-diaspora affairs to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, sparked a vigorous debate by his personal observation that "at least a quarter of a million American Jews should make aliya."

He contended that "a Jew cannot fully experience his Jewishness anywhere but in Israel."

The problems of assimilation also were of overriding concern at the conference. Chaim Seidler-Feller, B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation rabbi at UCLA, said that although anti-Semitism may exist on college campuses as a result of anti-Israel feelings, "that is not so much the question as the drop in Jewish involvement."

Hertzberg said he was "terribly frightened" of assimilation. "You have a mission. . . to stop the assimilationist clock," he told the conferees. "...Remember your loved ones who are no longer alive, and try to live as you would have lived had you been in dialogue with them."

SALE OF HITLER PAINTING PROTESTED

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 5 (JTA) -- A watercolor Adolf Hitler painted in Vienna in 1910 was sold for \$36,000 at a New Year's Day auction here, the World Jewish Congress reported.

The sale triggered an angry but peaceful demonstration by some 25 people against "the celebration of an evil man who's well known for his mass murder, not well known for his art."

The 9-by-15-inch painting, signed by Hitler, depicts a church, a bridge and a horse-drawn carriage in old Vienna. It was auctioned by the Den of Steven Gallery, which obtained it from a retired Ford Motor Company executive who insisted on remaining anonymous.

The purchaser was Dr. Donald Wright, a Louisville physician. The protest was organized by J. Mary Sorrell of the New Jewish Agenda.

The demonstrators marched outside the gallery chanting "Their ashes for Den of Steven's profits," a reference to the 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

ETHIOPIA SAID TO TRY ABOUT 20 JEWS JTA Staff Report

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Ethiopia put about 20 Jews on trial last month for their involvement in attempting to immigrate to Israel, Israeli Immigration and Absorption Minister Yacov Tsur said Monday.

His comments were reported in the newspaper Maariv, which added that nothing more is known of their fate. Tsur said that most of the defendants had worried relatives in Israel.

A spokesperson for the American Association for Ethiopian Jews in Chicago said Tuesday that 14 Jews are in Ethiopian jails for attempting to immigrate to Israel or aid others' immigration. Their trial had been rumored to begin for the past month, but as of two days ago an Ethiopian source knew of no such trial, the spokesperson added.

An estimated 10,000 to 20,000 Jews remain in Ethiopia and are prohibited from emigrating.