

VOL. 66 - 71st YEAR
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1988
NO. 4

ISRAEL DISAPPOINTED WITH U.S. VOTE ON RESOLUTION AGAINST DEPORTATIONS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 6 (JTA) - Israel is "deeply disappointed" with the U.S. support Tuesday night for a Security Council resolution demanding that Israel refrain from deporting Palestinians from the administered territories.

"We are deeply disappointed with the American vote. We have learned to expect one-sided and distorted resolutions from the Security Council, but we do not believe that the U.S. policy is to fall in with them," Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

In a rare show of displeasure with Israel's handling of the unrest in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the United States joined the 14 other members of the Security Council in adopting an Arab-sponsored resolution demanding that "Israel must refrain from deporting any Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories."

The resolution also requests that Israel abide by the Geneva Convention of Aug. 12, 1949, which protects the rights of civilians in time of war and bans the deportation of civilians.

It was the second resolution in a month aimed against Israel. On Dec. 22, the Security Council voted 14-0 to strongly deplore Israel for its handling of riots in the territories. The United States, which as a permanent member of the Council has the right to veto any Security Council resolution, chose to abstain from voting.

Contrary to news reports that the United States last voted in favor of a Security Council resolution criticizing Israel in 1981, Israeli and American diplomats said Wednesday that such an American vote last took place in 1983.

'Unnecessarily Harsh Measures'

Herbert S. Okun, the U.S. representative, told the Security Council after the vote that his country supported the resolution because it believes deportations of Palestinians are unnecessarily harsh measures to maintain order and only serve to increase tension in the territories.

"The United States recognizes that the Israeli authorities have the responsibility to maintain order in the occupied territories, and that they have the right to insist that the law is obeyed," Okun stated.

"But as officials of the United States said, both publicly and in diplomatic representations, the actions of the occupying power must be in accordance with international law and practice," he added.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, Rose Bernstein, said Wednesday that the United States voted for the resolution because its elements "are not different from what the U.S. has been saying in public" in recent weeks. She noted that the Reagan administration has called on Israel publicly not to deport any Palestinians and to adhere to the Geneva Convention.

Asked if the U.S. vote in the Security Council Tuesday represents any change in American policy toward Israel, Bernstein replied, "No, our policy has not changed. We did not vote against

Israel. We only voted against the specific action of deportation."

Netanyahu also said that he does not view the American vote as a change in U.S. policy toward Israel. "American policy is certainly not to promote the PLO and the forces of extremism," the Israel envoy said, referring to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Unfortunately, the last two resolutions by the Security Council, with U.S. acquiescence, will do just that. All those concerned with restoring tranquility must find a way to put a stop to the abuse of the Security Council by the PLO and its allies."

In a speech at the Security Council after the vote, Netanyahu maintained that Israel has the right under international law to maintain order in the territories. He accused the PLO of organizing the riots in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with the aim of damaging any prospects for a negotiated settlement in the region.

In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called the American vote "a deviation in a serious direction" in U.S. government policy. And Moshe Arens, a Likud member of Knesset, spoke of a worrying "deterioration" in relations between the United States and Israel.

Shamir Plays Down Vote

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir played down the significance of the vote, telling Likud ministers Wednesday that there were indications that the American move should be seen as a one-time action, rather than the sign of a radical shift in American policy toward Israel.

The prime minister urged that "verbal exchanges" between Israel and the United States not be intensified in the wake of the vote.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin appeared to shrug off the Security Council action. In a statement to reporters while touring the Gaza Strip Wednesday afternoon, Rabin said the decision to deport the Palestinians "is taken and is in the process of being implemented."

In New York, Jewish leaders expressed "disappointment" over U.S. participation in the U.N. vote. Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, issued a statement saying that the resolution "will not advance the cause of peace."

"That approach will not lead to Arab-Israel negotiations," he said, "but to further outbreaks and further disturbances."

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, expressed similar sentiments in a statement released Wednesday. He called the U.S. vote regrettable and said the Security Council resolution "will be seen by the Palestinians as a license for further violence and further disturbances."

Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International, said that instead of attacking the Israeli deportations, "the international community should encourage the Arab states and the Palestinian Arabs to declare their willingness to live in peace alongside of Israel, and not seek to destroy it."

(Jerusalem correspondent David Landau contributed to this report.)

LATEST VIOLENCE IN TERRITORIES LINKED TO PLANNED DEPORTATIONS

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan 6 (JTA) -- Demonstrations and sporadic violence continued Wednesday in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as Israeli officials expressed concern about controlling the latest spate of unrest.

An Israeli soldier was stabbed and slightly wounded by an Arab at the Tulkarm refugee camp in the West Bank. She was attacked while sitting in a car.

An Israel Defense Force officer with her fired at the assailant, who sustained what were described as "medium" wounds. A curfew was imposed on the Tulkarm camp.

A curfew also remained in effect at the refugee camp at Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip, where a Palestinian teen-ager was killed Tuesday in a clash between security forces and stone-throwing youths.

Inside Israel, meanwhile, a bomb exploded in the eastern outskirts of Kfar Saba on Wednesday. There were no injuries, but a telephone booth was damaged. Kfar Saba is an assembly place for Arab workers from the West Bank who have jobs in Israel.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered security forces in the territories to act "vigorously and fast" to break up demonstrations.

Sources in the defense establishment believe the latest ferment is linked to deportation orders issued Sunday against nine Palestinian activists from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The disturbances in Khan Yunis Tuesday began at the home of Hassan Abu Shakra, one of the nine ordered expelled.

A demonstration Tuesday by Arab women in the West Bank town of Kalkilya was to protest the pending deportation of Jamal Jabara, according to Palestinian sources quoted by Haaretz.

Similarly, riots at the Kalandriya refugee camp near Jerusalem this week were triggered by the deportation order against Adil Hamad, the sources said.

Senior defense officials are said to be deeply concerned that the new wave of violence in the territories will continue, Haaretz reported Wednesday.

Deportation Hearings Begin

Meanwhile, military review boards in Nablus and Gaza convened Wednesday to begin hearing the appeals of the nine Palestinians slated for deportation.

The four from the Gaza Strip are on a hunger strike. The attorney for one of them said the hunger strike would continue until death, because they want to be buried in Gazan soil.

The nine cabled the Soviet government, the Vatican and the United Nations Security Council Tuesday asking for their support.

The fact that unrest has continued, contrary to expectations in official quarters that it would taper off, prompted the Mapam daily Al Hamishmar to question the efficacy of deportation as a deterrent.

The paper also raised the question of where the deportees would be sent. Jordan, Egypt and Syria have already stated flatly they would not accept Palestinians ousted by Israel. Lebanon appears to be the only alternative. The government in Beirut is too weak to offer effective opposition.

It therefore seems likely that if the nine Palestinians are expelled they will be sent to an area of Lebanon north of the security zone where, according to Israeli officials, their lives will not be in danger, Al Hamishmar reported.

Haaretz also reported Wednesday that the deportees would be sent to Lebanon if their appeals before the military review boards fail. The prospective deportees also may appeal to Israel's Supreme Court. Past practice indicates that although the high court has never overruled a defense establishment decision to deport, it has intervened with respect to destination, taking into consideration the safety of the deportees.

As the military review board hearings began, the IDF announced that it has already released more than 350 of some 1,000 Palestinians taken into custody during three weeks of rioting in the territories.

DEFENSE MINISTER SAYS ISRAEL HAS RIGHT TO EXPEL TERRORISTS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan 6 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, responding to no-confidence motions in the Knesset Wednesday, upheld Israel's right under the law to expel Palestinian troublemakers from the administered territories.

He also sought to justify certain measures taken by security forces to quell disturbances which have been criticized in Israel and abroad. He said it was sometimes necessary to arrest youngsters, citing an incident in Nablus where a 12-year-old girl threw a gasoline bomb at Israeli troops.

Rabin said there were a total of 1,978 arrests made since rioting broke out in the administered territories on Dec. 9, but that 900 of the detainees have been released. Another 300 were prosecuted and six were acquitted. Earlier Wednesday, the Israel Defense Force indicated that 350 of the detainees had been freed.

The no-confidence motions were introduced for different reasons by four left-wing parties and the right-wing extremist Kach party. The leftist parties protested the deportation orders against nine Palestinian activists. Kach wants every Arab expelled from both Israel and the administered territories.

A Labor member of the Knesset, attorney David Libai, maintained that the deportations violate international law. But his arguments failed to move the defense minister, who insisted that deportation was entirely legal under "the law that binds us."

Israeli officials in general have been especially sensitive to the American charge that deportation contravenes the 1949 Geneva Convention protecting residents of occupied territories.

Rabin and others deny this. They say the Geneva Conventions do not strictly apply to the West Bank or Gaza Strip, because these territories are not occupied soil of any sovereign country.

Rabin visited the Gaza Strip on Wednesday after his appearance in the Knesset. The defense minister encountered some burning roadblocks and other scenes of unrest, but no major demonstrations.

He told reporters that despite sporadic incidents of violence, he believes the turbulence in the territories is dying down. He said the Israel Defense Force is succeeding in its "gradual efforts to bring about more tranquility. I believe we will achieve it," Rabin said.

LEADERS SAY POPE'S VISIT TO AUSTRIA NOT A REPEAT OF WALDHEIM AUDIENCE

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II's announced trip to Austria should more properly be viewed as a pastoral visit to that country's Catholics than as a repeat of the controversial papal audience with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim last summer, Catholic and Jewish officials said Wednesday.

In planning the June 23 to 27 visit, the pope is responding to an invitation extended by Austrian bishops at the beginning of 1987, according to a spokesman at the Apostolic Nunciature, the Vatican Embassy in Washington.

The spokesman said that during such a visit it is a "tradition" that the pope meet in some way with the country's head of state.

"I would assume he'll meet with Waldheim, although I haven't any sure news about this," said the spokesman.

Plans for the pope's visit were discussed before controversy erupted over Waldheim's audience at the Vatican and are "not really a surprise," said Eugene Fisher, secretary of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"When the pope came (to the United States) it was to visit the Catholic people, but the president met him in Miami," noted Fisher.

Waldheim, a former secretary general of the United Nations who is being investigated about his activities as an officer in the German army during World War II, met with John Paul II at the Vatican last June. Waldheim has repeatedly denied that he participated in the deportation of Greek Jews to Auschwitz, among other charges.

According to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) and director of international relations for the American Jewish Committee, it is "important for the Jewish community to know" that the pope received the Austrian bishops' invitation two weeks before the audience with Waldheim.

May Not Be President

Tanenbaum said that reactions by IJCIC and other Jewish organizations will depend on whether Waldheim is still Austria's president by the time of the papal visit.

Tanenbaum referred to the international commission, headed by Austrian Hans Kurz, that is investigating Waldheim's wartime activities. The commission's report is expected to be released late this month.

"The report will trigger a significant public debate in Austria, the question being, should Waldheim resign?" said Tanenbaum.

If the Austrian leader does not step down by the time of the papal visit, "then we are concerned about the content and nature of their meeting and hope not to see a repeat of last summer," he said.

If Waldheim does resign, "then this is a normal, pastoral visit to the 87 percent of Austrians who are Catholic," said Tanenbaum.

At an IJCIC meeting Thursday, Tanenbaum will present for approval copies of a letter that is to be forwarded to Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, head of the Vatican Secretariat for Religious Relations With the Jews.

The letter requests a meeting with Willebrands and Vatican Secretary of State Agostino

Casaroli to discuss the pope's visit.

Reactions to the announced visit by other American Jewish leaders were mixed, with some more cautious than others.

Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International, said in a statement that the only useful result of a second meeting between the pope and Waldheim would be "if the pope were to take confession from Mr. Waldheim, and if that act gave Austria's president the moral courage to do what he should have done years ago: publicly admit his Nazi past and withdraw from public life."

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said in a statement that he hoped the pope uses the visit as a "new and different opportunity to confront the issues of the Holocaust."

Will Legitimize Waldheim

The Simon Wiesenthal Center appeared to take a stronger stand, saying that if such a meeting takes place it "will further serve to politically and morally legitimize Kurt Waldheim at a time when he remains shunned by virtually all Western leaders."

Perhaps the sharpest statement was issued by Hadassah President Ruth Popkin, who said the pope's planned meeting with Waldheim is "cause for the gravest concern among all who cherish justice and the blessed memory of those consumed in the flames of the Holocaust."

"Such a meeting gives a hollow ring to the pope's statements on the suffering of Jews at Nazi hands, and seriously erodes the claim to moral authority of his holy office," she added.

Popkin said further that speculation about Waldheim's resignation as president of Austria does nothing to "rectify the pope's misplaced compassion in failing to repudiate" the Austrian leader.

She said that if the pope "feels compelled by protocol" to meet with presidents of the nations he visits, "then it is incumbent upon him to postpone his visit to Austria until Kurt Waldheim is no longer its president."

LIKUD ACTS TO BLOCK KAHANE RE-ELECTION By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan 6 (JTA) -- Likud acted Tuesday to ban Rabbi Meir Kahane's extremist Kach party from running in the Knesset elections next November.

Deputy Minister Ronni Milo disclosed that Likud will ask the Central Elections Committee to reject Kahane's list, because of Kach's racist views. He said Likud would never cooperate with "a racist party" or take it as a coalition partner.

At the same time, Milo said he hoped the Labor Party would take similar action to outlaw anti-Zionist parties, such as the Communist Party, and state unequivocally that it will never consider them as coalition partners.

ANESTHESIOLOGISTS STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Jan 6 (JTA) -- About 350 anesthesiologists staged a one-day strike Tuesday, forcing the postponement of more than 400 non-emergency operations and other medical procedures in hospitals throughout Israel.

The doctors, who say they want higher pay to attract younger people to their field, say they will strike again if their demands are not met.

**DUTCH JEWISH ACTOR SAYS
HIS KIDNAPPING WAS A LIE**
By Hearletta Boas

AMSTERDAM, Jan 6 (JTA) -- A Dutch Jewish actor confessed to Belgian police Tuesday that his kidnapping by Dutch neo-Nazis in Brugge, Belgium last month was strictly theater.

Jules Croiset admitted that he fabricated his Dec. 4 story that two days earlier he had been seized by three Dutch fascist youths outside his hotel who held him captive for 18 hours in an abandoned factory in Charleroi.

According to his tale, he was handcuffed to a pipe and subjected to anti-Semitic abuse, but finally managed to escape.

Croiset had claimed he was kidnapped because of his role in preventing the staging of a purportedly anti-Semitic play by Werner Rainer Fassbinder at a theater in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

The play, "Garbage, the City and Death," aroused fierce emotions in Holland. Jewish protestors forced the cancellation of its premier performance on Nov. 18 and its sponsors, the Amsterdam Theatrical Academy, subsequently withdrew the production.

Croiset's confession stunned the Jewish community here, which had been deeply disturbed by an anti-Semitic backlash that developed after the play was withdrawn. The alleged kidnapping of Croiset had seemed to confirm their worst fears.

Now Jews fear that exposure of the kidnapping as a hoax means future complaints of anti-Semitism in Holland will not be taken seriously.

Belgian police said they were suspicious from the outset of Croiset's story because of several inconsistencies and contradictions.

The actor was in Brussels Tuesday for a recital. Police approached him after the performance and escorted him to the central police station for questioning.

Broke Down Under Questioning

They said Croiset broke down under interrogation and admitted he had invented the kidnapping story.

Croiset also confessed that he wrote several threatening letters which he signed "Netherlands Fascist Youth Organization" and mailed to himself and to several Jewish families in Holland.

In addition, Croiset admitted he was responsible for a fake bomb scare telephoned to the Rotterdam theater where a closed performance of Fassbinder's play was given for representatives of the Jewish community and others to determine if it was anti-Semitic.

Croiset faces possible prosecution in Holland or Belgium for making false statements to the police.

His motives are unclear. Some say it was a publicity stunt that backfired. Others suggest the actor needs psychiatric treatment.

PERES TESTIFIES IN VANUNU TRIAL
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan 6 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres took the stand in Jerusalem district court Wednesday as the final witness in the trial of alleged nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu.

The trial is being held behind closed doors and no part of Peres' testimony was released. He was reported to have spent an hour on the wit-

ness stand and to have told the court that Vanunu had done great harm to the country's security.

Vanunu's attorney, Avigdor Feldman, told reporters later that he was severely restricted in his direct examination of the foreign minister, because several lines of questioning were banned for security reasons. He charged this was an obstruction of justice.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir had listed five areas related to the trial on which Peres could not be questioned by either the defense or prosecution. These areas were specified in order to avoid embarrassing Peres should he have to decline to answer questions or volunteer information that might endanger the security of the state.

Picked Because Of Expertise

The foreign minister was summoned as a witness by the defense, because of his long association with Israeli scientific and technological work in the defense field. Peres began his career in the defense establishment, later serving as defense minister and has always supported the introduction and use of new technology.

Vanunu, a former technician at the Dimona nuclear facility, is accused of espionage and treason, because of information he gave the Sunday Times of London about Israel's alleged nuclear weapons capability.

According to some reports, an American expert who testified for the defense Monday maintained that Vanunu's revelations contained nothing that was not freely available in professional journals.

The trial, which began last year, is now in its final stages. The defense and prosecution are expected to deliver their summations next week.

**WEST GERMANS MAY NOW PROSECUTE
'SKINHEADS' CONVICTED IN EAST BERLIN**
By David Kantor

BONN, Jan 6 (JTA) -- Seven neo-Nazi youths serving prison terms in East Berlin for assault and vandalism may face trial in West Berlin.

A spokesman for the West Berlin authorities, Cornel Christoffel, said Wednesday that an investigation has begun, based on evidence supplied by the East Berlin authorities.

The seven, members of a "skinheads" group, broke into the Zion Church, a Protestant denomination in East Berlin, last Oct. 17, shouting anti-Semitic epithets.

They severely injured several congregants and damaged the church, apparently because of its close friendly relations with East Berlin's tiny Jewish community.

Their subsequent trial was the first public admission by the East Berlin authorities that neo-Nazis are active in the Communist Democratic Republic of Germany.

But they maintained that the youths were influenced by "subversive elements" in West Germany.

The neo-Nazis were sentenced on Dec. 7 to one to two years in prison. The prosecutor insisted the sentences were too light and on Dec. 24, a district court judge increased them from 14 to 18 months, in two cases, and from two to four years, in two others.

The "skinheads," youthful roughnecks who wear Nazi-like uniforms, are a phenomenon that has surfaced recently in Western countries, including the United States. Most of the groups are anti-Semitic.